EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW ★ STAN LAZARIDIS

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

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SOCCER

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AUSTRALIA v NORWAY

Ericsson Cup Match Reports

Brits interest in Oz — time to capitalise

By BOB BROOKS

THE appointment of Terry Venables as the Australian coach was greeted with a mixture of delight and disgust by a wide cross section of the media in this country.

In Britain, the commentators were stunned and dumbfounded as to how the so recent England boss could move 20, 000 km away from their centre of the universe? Move he did, and accepted the challenge of getting the Socceroos to the World Cup Finals in 1998.

Well to be precise, he took the job but will spend a few months of each year in Australia and the rest in Europe. The interest generated by Venables has been phenomenal. Britain's world leading broadcaster, the BBC, have followed him around - wonder if they went with him to North Queensland?

Anything with an Australian slant rates large on British television, Neighbours is just one example of many. What they'll do with all the footage of film from Venables visit is anybody's guess, but be sure it won't be wasted - and that's good for Australia.

The interest generated will rub off on Stan Lazaridis at West Ham, Kevin Muscat with Crystal Palace, Mark Bosnich (as if he needs the added attention) at Villa, and all the other lads like Lucas Neill, Andrew McDermott, Stevie Corica, Harry Kewell, and not forgetting Robbie Slater.

Australia's coach will now turn his attention to those players and others like Joe Spiteri, Mark Viduka, Steve Horvat, Aurelio Vidmar and even veteran Graham Arnold.

He will be looking to put a combination together to challenge Hungary in Budapest, Croatia in Zagreb and hopefully France in one of their large centres of population like Lyons, Marseille or Bordeaux.

With few pre-conceptions, Venables can more or less start with a clean slate, Raul Blanco and Les Scheinflug providing the continuity with the past.

As this column asked last week, where will the management and players assemble in Europe? Will Soccer Australia appoint a back up staff of a maximum of five people? May we suggest a physiotherapist, gear steward, marketeer cum media liaison, tour leader and assistant coach, should be all that is required.

With about 500 attending the early January training sessions in Melbourne before the Optus World Soccer series, just how many of the paparazzi and other media will be there in the UK when Venables gets the lads together for the first time?

It is time to capitalise on the tremendous interest generated by anything Australian in Britain, and negotiate and sign up for a 'home away from home' as advocated in last week's edition.

While on the subject of Britain, what is England going to do for their home internationals when Wembley is being rebuilt?

Seems there is a good opportunity to invite Glenn Hoddle's team for a four team tournament in Australia in order to keep them active.

Worth exploring? Definitely.

'Side by Side'

Melbourne Knights are strongly supporting the sale and publicity of the song 'Side by Side'. They played the song at their home game on Sunday against Collingwood Warriors. Copies of the CD were on sale at Somers Street.

The song was written by Waddy Oweis. Waddy also wrote the music in collaboration with Sam McNally. This is the song for the victims of the Port Arthur tragedy. It has soared up the ARIA charts to be in the national top100. Brashs, HMV and Blockbuster Music have the CD on sale for $9.95. These stockists are donating their profits from the sales, as are the songwriters. Their contributions are going to the Port Arthur Victims Appeal Fund.

As the modest contribution of ABSW we urge you to add the CD to your collection and we publish the words with kind permission of Waddy Oweis for your attention.

Side By Side

Words by Waddy Oweis

Music by Waddy Oweis and Sam McNally

Verse 1:

Like no other time in our history
Crime has shaken our lives
In the face of such a tragedy
We're left to wonder why

Never thought it could happen
Here in this innocent land
All those men, women and children
It's hard to understand

Chorus:

We stand side by side
As we grieve for the innocent
ones who've died
We stand side by side
As we lift up their loved ones
who are left behind

Verse 2:

Now in these days of mourning
We walk a darkened road
Together we share the burden
To help lighten the load

And as we begin the healing
In the shadows of our grief
We pray this pain we're feeling
Will find some kind of relief

Chorus:

Bridge:

We raise our voice in defiance
To silence the sound of violence
That echoes in the canyons
Of the soul, of the soul.

Chorus:

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ERICSSON CUP MATCH REPORTS

Marconi survive in poor display

Marconi Fairfield 1 — By BOB BROOKS — **Canberra Cosmos 0**

On a heavy pitch at Marconi Stadium on Saturday night, the locals scraped in by the only goal of the game against a depressing Canberra Cosmos.

The only excitement of the first half came when referee Con Diomis called for his cards from the fourth official after 13 minutes. Obviously he had forgotten to take them out with him.

Players slipped, skidded, fell over as their feet stuck and passes went frustratingly astray in a first half which was best forgotten.

The first shot towards goal came in the 16th minute from Canberra's Michael Garcia. The initial corner arrived three minutes later for the Farifielders but it was headed clear.

Ante Juric moved menacingly into attack, found himself with the ball at his feet and unmarked but chose to try to play it off, when the better option was to turn and shoot.

Six minutes later, in the 32nd, Francis Awaritefe met a corner well but his header went onto the top of the bar and away.

The pick of the Cosmos team, Rodrigo Moreno, swung in a long ball that deceived Bob Catlin. Unfortunately for the visitors it struck the left top corner on its way over.

Sporadic booing broke out from a section of the home supporters as the teams left the arena for the break.

The ever lively Luke Casserly was the most dangerous for Marconi, and it was he who set up a great position for Awaritife in the 17th minute of the second stanza. The latter used all his speed to reach the ball on the left. His shot with his left foot screamed across the face of the goal, beat Antony Giannasca and the far post.

Moments later Marko Perinovic from an almost identical position, at least beat the Stallions defence. He was closer than Awaritefe as his shot struck the foot of Bob Catlin's left post and bounced out.

Marconi picked up the pace and exerted considerable pressure on the Cosmos defence. Awaritefe forced a finger tip save, then the ball was kicked off the line in a ruck of players. Then seconds later Zeljko Babic was denied by a timely Juric tackle.

Finally Marconi got their reward. Awaritefe was involved as he won a duel on the left by the goal line. He smartly cut the ball back to Brad Maloney on the edge of the box who made no mistake with a well hit rising shot.

In the dying seconds Canberra could have snatched an undeserved point but Catlin launched himself spectacularly to deny John Koch.

Brad Maloney: Scored only goal of game to give Marconi victory.

Marconi: Catlin, Stanton, Bingley, Casserly, Harper, Foster (Ravanello 86), Maloney, Longo, Babic, Awaritefe, Zoric (Holst 86).

Canberra Cosmos: Giannasca, Dee, Wade, Garcia, Perinovic, Baxter (Lemezina 78), Koch, Mazis, Sorras, Juric, Moreno.
Scorer: Maloney (77)
Yellow cards: Marconi: Casserly (72) Canberra: Moreno (30), Perinovic (71), Dee (83), Sorras (86), Juric (88), Koch(89)
Referee: C. Diomis
Crowd: 4,279
POY: 3 - Casserly (MF), 2 - Moreno (CC), 1 - Awaritife (MF).

Luke Casserly: Pick of home side, seemed to adapt best to conditions.

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Ravanelli	-	-	25/1	16/1	18/1	33/1	28/1
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ERICSSON CUP MATCH REPORTS

Zebras too good for Strikers

Brisbane Strikers 1 — Adelaide City 3

By GLENN DAVIS

A depleted Brisbane Strikers had their Ericsson Cup premiership hopes jolted when Adelaide City notched their first Suncorp Stadium victory with a commanding 3-1 win on Saturday night.

Despite the defeat, player coach Frank Farina, who along with skipper Alan Hunter and Sean Cranney missed the match, refused to criticise the Strikers' performance. "I thought we were all over them in the second half," Farina said.

"We've got to get on with it now. We've got two away games against Newcastle and Wollongong and we've got to get as many points as we can. The result is not good for us, but we won't be panicking and we're still five points clear of Adelaide City."

In a seesawing match, the Strikers looked lethargic in the first half in the humid conditions and it came as no surprise to see the Zebras open the scoring on 17 minutes through hard working midfielder Brad Hassell.

Hassell outstripped Strikers' midfielder Gary Phillips with pace and rounded defender Danny Wright before firing a shot which was smothered by keeper Graham Ross. However, lady luck didn't shine on the Striker's keeper with the rebound falling back into Hassell's path for an easy tap in.

The setback sparked a mini revival from the home side who launched several raids, but were forced into long range shots from 20 metres or more against the league's second best defensive side.

The Strikers looked dominant for lengthy periods after the break, but the tough Zebras defence held until a controversial penalty awarded by local referee Derek Crawford on 70 minutes.

Strikers sharpshooter Rod Brown, who was kept quiet for most of the game, fired in a shot which was parried by Socceroo squad keeper Jason Petkovic into the path of substitute Wayne Knipe who was ruled to have been brought down by City defender Angelo Costanzo.

With Farina and Hunter watching from the sidelines, rangy defender Mark Battistin stepped forward and made no mistake from the spot kick.

The turning point in the match came in the 78th minute when reliable sweeper Glen Gwynne made a rare mistake sending a pass straight to City striker Michael Brooks who strolled into the box to give to give the visitors a 2-1 lead.

The Strikers, who sorely missed Hunter's presence in defence, fell victim to another piece of Brooks magic nine minutes from time for Adelaide's third goal. City midfielder Dino Mennilo ran the ball before slipping a pass to Brooks who again had too much pace for Wright before slotting a shot from an acute angle near the by-line.

Unfortunately for Wright, who was rushing back to block the shot, the ball rebounded off his legs for an own goal.

Bradley Hassell: Opened the scoring for Adelaide City and emerged as Man of the Match.

BRISBANE STRIKERS: Ross, Gwynne, Phillips, (Brayshaw 45), Wright, Battistin, Wehrman, Harris (Hews 75) Brown, Tollenaere, Slater (Knipe 65), T. Cranney.

ADELAIDE CITY: Petkovic, Armour, Yates, Ivanovic, Tobin, Costanzo, Hassell (Salapasidis 87), Mennillo (Sabljack 89), Gibson, Musitan (Vaskin 77), Brooks.

Scorers: Strikers: Battistin (71pen) Zebras: Hassell (17), Brooks (28), Own Goal (81)
Yellow cards: Strikers: Tollenaere (63) Zebras: Yates (70) Tobin (45)
Referee: D. Crawford
Crowd: 4,169
POY: 3-Hassell (AC), 2-Wehrman, 1-Petkovic (AC)

Pumas show class at Wolves

Wollongong City 1 — Sydney United 4

By PHIL MURPHY

Sydney United striker Ante Milicic spoiled the Wollongong City party at Brandon Park on Sunday night when he grabbed a hat-trick in United's 4-1 win.

The message came loud and clear that Branko Culina's side have one hand on the championship trophy. They played some great precision football and continully caught the Wolves on the break.

A ground record of 10,158 turned up and the entertainment turned on by the Wollongong club was first class. Unfortunately the home team wasn't up to the task.

They played some good football in midfield but United goalkeeper Kalac was rarely troubled. Once United went ahead after just 17 minutes, Wolves were always going to struggle. The way Culina's team play, it is very difficult to play catch-up football against them. They defended well, went forward quickly and in numbers and, in truth, Milicic should have had a couple more goals.

However, he made his all-important first strike after Ante Moric lobbed the ball forward. Paul Bilokapic headed it into the box and Milicic was on the right wavelength. He moved away from his marker and hammered the ball into the roof of the net.

It was 2-0 after 25 minutes, Robert Enes and Robert Trajkovski combining in a great move before Trajkovski provided the final pass. Again Milicic was in exactly the right place to squeeze the ball between goalkeeper Brett Hughes and the right post.

The Wolves suffered a setback soon after, midfielder Sonny Sevin was stretchered off after a crude tackle by Mark Babic which left him suffering from concussion.

After 67 minutes, Trajkovski again went down the right and set up goal number three. His low cross was deflected into the net by Wolves defender Gary Van Egmond.

Anthony Surjan hammered in a top goal for the home team with six minutes to go, then Milicic again got the ball past Hughes after being released by Zdrilic up the middle.

Culina said after the game that the team that scored first was always going to have a big advantage.

"We got the goal and it made it easier for us to dictate the play. I am very pleased with the performance but we felt the big occasion got the better of Wollongong.

"They had a lot of the ball in midfield but we defended well and should have scored more goals. We caught them on the break quite a few times.

"Trajovksi played very well for us today and obviously (man of the match) Ante Milicic got the goals."

Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos paid tribute to United.

"They were too good for us; it was as simple as that.

"I know the boys will be disappointed after such a big crowd turned up to support them. They will bounce back next week."

Ante Milicic: Demoralised Wolves with three goals.

WOLLONGONG: Hughes, Ceccoli, Van Egmond, Horsley, Sevin (Perinich 29), Dimovski, Harlock, Josevski, Lloyd, Surjan, Chipperfield (Lamond 52).

SYDNEY UNITED: Kalac, Trajkovski, Kupresak, Enes, Babic, Marusic (Culina 76), Moric, Milicic, Zdrillic, Bilokapic (Markovac 80).

Scorers:
SYDNEY UNITED: Milicic (17, 25, 90) Own Goal (78)
WOLLONGONG: Surjan (84)
Yellow cards: Bilokapic (SU), Babic (SU)
Referee: M. Shield
Crowd: 10,158
POY: 3 - Trajkovski (SU), 2 - Milicic(SU), 1 - Surjan (WC).Crowd: Crowd: 10,158

And Perth go marching on

UTS Olympic 2 — Perth Glory 1

By JOHN VRTARIC

UTS Olympic continued their dismal performance this season suffering a comprehensive 2-0 home defeat at the hands Perth Glory at the Belmore Sports Ground on Sunday night. This loss leaves them eight points behind the top six and facing a near impossible task to make the finals series.

On the other hand Perth Glory maintained their impressive debut season with an all round team effort to which an insipid Olympic had no answer. With this victory Perth move into third position on the Ericsson Cup ladder. Olympic started the game with a very different team to the one that took the field in their last game prior to the Optus World Series tournament. Their new signing, David Mitchell, made his debut, playing in an unfamiliar midfield position alongside Milan Blagojevic.

Missing from the team were regulars Nick Meredith, Peter Tsekenis, Alastair Edwards, Walter Ardone and Ivan Zelic. Ardone and Zelic were on the bench whilst the others were nowhere to be seen.

As well as the change in personnel, coach David Ratcliffe changed the formation of the team opting for a three-man forward tactic -Tome and Trajanovski partnering Poimer, with Trajanovski playing a more withdrawn role akin to the position he filled for the Australian team in the Optus World Series.

In defence, Ratcliffe , again, altered his line up with David Barrett filling the sweeper role in preference to Blagojevic and Zelic, who had been used previously.

Perth coach, Gary Marocchi, retained the team he has been using most of the season with the only change being the return of Alan McKenzie.

Played on a cloudy Sydney night in a front of a healthy 7,124 crowd the game proved to be an uninspiring and often scrappy affair. The two week break and the restructuring of the team seemed to have done little for Olympic's fluency as there was a lack of understanding within the team.

After a scrappy beginning Perth opened the scoring, in the eleventh minute, with an own goal scored by the Sydneysiders captain, Barrett. It came from an attack by the dangerous Bobby Despotovki along Olympicís left flank, then a pass to the industrious full-back, Dale Wingell, who fired in a menacing cross behind the defence. In an attempt to clear the ball behind the goal line Barrett, facing his own goal, stuck out his right foot and, knocked the ball into his own net.

Olympic created a couple of half-chances in the first half including a through ball to Mitchell whose attempted back heel to a team mate went astray. This incident was typical of Mitchell's performance, he was totally ineffectual throughout the game. His selection for the start of the game seems peculiar as he did not look match fit.

Olympic's most industrious move in the first half occurred in the 33rd minute with a mazy run down the left side of the field by Tome, whose cross was cleverly flicked off the outside of his right foot by Poimer but, Matassa was equal to the task and saved.

Perth scored their telling second goal at a crucial time, in the 41st minute, just before the half time break. A run by the speedy Perth striker, Vasili Kalogeracos, resulted in a corner, which was taken by midfielder, Gareth Naven. The near post corner was met by an unmarked Bobby Despotovski, who beat 'keeper Franken to the ball and cleverly flicked it in.

Another move by the dangerous Despotovski & Kalogeracos combination almost finished in Perth's third goal. Kalogeracos beat two defenders before passing the ball to Despotovski who, in turn, squared it to the advancing Wingell. The danger was extinguished by Olympic defender, Elias Augerinos, who blocked Wingellís attempted shot.

Olympic made a number of forays deep into Perthís defence in the second half via the runs of Youth international, Brett Emerton. Although providing a number of dangerous crosses the closest his endeavours came to fruition was a far post header by Mitchell, which went over the bar.

Perth did score a third goal in the 59th minute -Scott Miller finished off a shot-cum-cross from Kalogeracos but was ruled off-side by the linesman.

Towards the latter part of the game the skilful Despostovski conjured up a number of moves which came close to producing goals. In one such move, in the 75th minuter, he beat three defenders and from a very acute angle on the right his shot went agonisingly close to, both, Franken's far post and the outstretched leg of the substitute McKenzie.

UTS OLYMPIC Franken: Ballie, Ciantar, Barrett: Emerton, Augerinos(Zelic75) Blagojevic, Mitchell: Trajanovski, Tome(Ardone 63), Poimer(Gonzales 75).

PERTH GLORY Matassa: Wingell, Miller, C. Naven, Wilkinson, Buijubasic: G. Naven, McVittie, Strudwick: Despotovski, Kalogeracos (McKenzie 71)

Scorers:
PERTH GLORY: Own Goal (11) Despotovski (41)
Yellow Cards:
UTS: Barrett, Ciantar
PERTH: C.Naven Buijubasic
Referee: Brett Hugo
POY: 3-G Naven (PG), 2-Despotovski (PG), 1-Wingell (PG)

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ERICSSON CUP MATCH REPORTS

Warriors return to Winners Circle

Melbourne Knights 0 — Collingwood Warriors 1

By DWYGHT TUFFNELL

Collingwood Warriors ended an 11 game losing streak at Knights Stadium on Sunday, defeating the home side 1-0.

A goal shortly before half time from Con Boutsianis settled the match but had the Knights taken their chances they would have easily got the three points.

Collingwood included Paul Della Rocca and Alan Davidson for their first starts.The impact of Davidson, playing sweeper, was evident from early on with a much tighter and better organised Warriors defence. He was certainly tested and a couple of slip ups going towards half time nearly resulted in Knights goals.

But it was the Warriors who grabbed the goal with their first real shot at goal. Goran Lozanovski's far post cross picked out substitute Boutsianis sliding in to beat Joe Didulica with a half volley. Ivan Duzel came close after the break before Lozanovski provided another pinpoint cross for the head of Vlahos, but Didulica saved smartly.

Andrew Marth was then denied by goal line clearances twice within a minute. A Duzel corner found the head of the Knights skipper but it was hooked away on the far post by Carlo Talladira.

He was then left frustrated again when supplied by the same source, a Duzel corner, but had his header cleared by Ernie Tapai this time.

Della Rocca was next to force a goal saving clearance by David Cervinski, playing his 100th game for the Knights. The Warriors managed to stave off the waves of Knights attacks they endured in the final minutes to hang on for a priceless win.

"It's a cruel game" said Knights coach Ian Dobson, "when you dominate a game so much and can't finish it off. It's the same old story for us though, creating a lot of chances and not getting anything out of it. But they got the killer goal, and we got caught dreaming."

The loss makes it hard for the Knights to keep in touch for a place in the top six, but Dobson isn't giving up hope yet.

"It was important game for both teams but it's not over yet, we've got to go to Gippsland next week and get a result.

"We'll be about seven points out of the top six now, it's still reachable but it's getting less reachable as weeks go by."

Warriors coach Zoran Matic said that Davidson's inclusion has improved his team already.

"We've been struggling in that position all year. Sweeper is a crucial position, he has to read what is going on, they created few chances but you have to understand that Alan hasn't played for a while."

Despite the win, Matic isn't getting carried away with the win and talking about a resurgence for the club.

"Let's win a few more games in a row and then we can call it a resurgence."

Andrew Marth: Denied goals by desperate clearances on Warriors line.

KNIGHTS: Didulica, D. Cervinski, Marth, Simunic, Lapsansky, Kutlesovski, T. Pondeljak, Caleta, Duzel (Deak 77), Banini (Nastevski 46), A Cervinski.

WARRIORS: Juric, Vrkic, Della Rocca, Davidson, Scott, Talldira, Vlahos, Taliadoros, Tapai, Lozanovski, (MacNicol 84), Silic (Boutsianis 20).
Scorer: Boutsianis (44)
Yellow Cards: KNIGHTS - Lapsansky (58)
POY: 3 - Vrkic (CW), 2 - Marth (MK), 3 - Lozanovski - (CW).
Referee: G. Connolly
Crowd: 7,917

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South win tough encounter

Sth Melbourne 2 — Gippsland Falcons 0

By JOHN RIGAS

Veteran striker Billy Wright sparked controversy when he was introduced as a subsitute midway through second half. Wright became embroiled in push and shove incidents that resulted in physical play at Bob Jane Stadium.

Lakers coach Angie Postecoglou was not impressed by Wright's antics stating that "if they (Gippsland) think they can achieve something by putting someone on to get a player sent off or injured it's their prerogative."

South Melbourne had the first chance of the game in the 16th minute when a David Clarkson free kick was headed towards goal by Vaughan Coveny forcing Jim Kourtis into a diving save.

Gippsland defender Nick Palomaras tried his luck from 25 metres but was unsuccessful as he shot straight into the arms of Michael Petkovic in the 27th minute.

The opening 30 minutes was dominated by the defences, minimal opportunities were created as the first half headed for a scoreless stalemate.

South Melbourne surged **forward** two minutes into **stoppage** time in search of an **opening** goal. Their reward arrived via a combination of passes between Coveny, Clarkson and Trimboli who touched it on for Kelic who volleyed home from close range.

South Melbourne's lead brought with it a touch of controversy when Coveny lashed out and allegedly kicked Falcons defender Steve Mangos after passing the ball. Falcons coach Frank Arok said that Coveny should have been sent off for the offence.

The Lakers began the second half full of spirit and created an array of missed opportunities; the best falling to Socceroo Trimboli.

Another Socceroo, Warren Spink, provided a superb cross for Trimboli who possibly missed the easiest scoring opportunity of his career.With an open goal at his mercy, a first time shot would have increased South's lead but Trimboli elected to take his time and lost control of the ball enabling Clayton Bell to clear for a corner.

More controversy followed the corner when goalkeeper Kourtis grabbed the ball in a packed penalty box.

South Melbourne players were trying to kick the ball out of Kourtis' hands in turn connecting with the goalkeeper's body four or five times.

Falcons players raced in to protect their goalkeeper and made matters worse as an all in brawl erupted. Only Michael Petkovic stayed out of trouble. Referee Eugene Brazzale showed only one yellow card from the incident which was to Will Hastie.

South Melbourne put the result beyond the Gippsland reach after super work from substitute Steve Panopoulos who made the Falcons defence look second rate as he raced in between Hastie and Doug Marcina. Panopoulos passed to Trimboli who struck the post with a first time effort, Coveny was on hand to add to his goal tally.

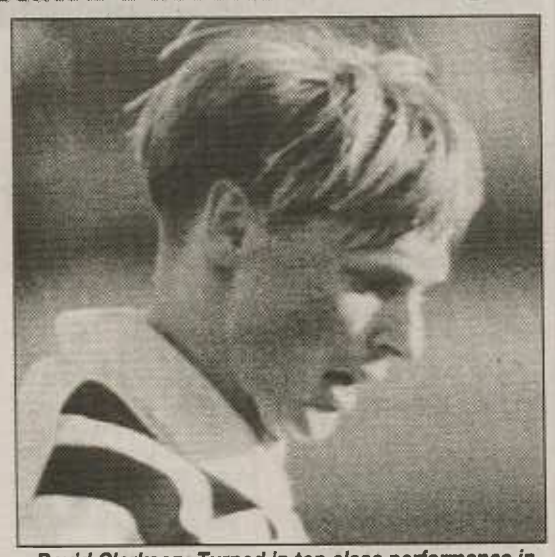
Postecoglou was a happy man after the game but mentioned that his troops were a little rusty and they did not play their fluent game as they did in the past.

"We should have killed them off earlier with the opportunities created, " added Postecoglou.

Arok remarked, "it's very heartening for us as we played very solidly, we could have been easily one each."

Arok praised Clayton Bell for his performance on Paul Trimboli.

Arok thought that Bell put the Socceroo out of the game.



David Clarkson: Turned in top class performance in Lakers victory.

LAKERS: Petkovic, Orlic, Kuzmanovic, Blatsis, Polak (Panopoulos 59), Coveny, Trimboli, Iosifidis, Clarkson, Kelic (Spink 70), De Amicis.

FALCONS: Kourtis, Mangos, Marcina, Palamaras, Foy (Giminiez 59), Krncevic, Duric, Bell, Gotis (Wright 71), Hastie, M. Masi (Tricorico HT).
Scorers: LAKERS: KELIC: (45) Coveny (89)
Yellow cards: LAKERS: Kuzmanovic (75)
Falcons: Gotis (70) Wright (75), Hastie (77), Krncevic (87)
Referee: E Brazzale
Crowd: 5,239
POY: 3 - Clarkson (SM) 2 - Kourtis(GF) 1 - Bell(GF)

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Socceroos Formidable Opponents

Dear Sir,

I was only 2 years old when Australia last made the World Cup and sadly we haven't done so since. After seeing the little we have to offer in the first two games of the Optus World Series, I really feel Terry Venables is wasting his time here and the months he'll spend overseas will be more than vindicated.

We have more than 100 players overseas and with a few exceptions these are the creme de la crop, and the National team should reflect this.

After much thought I came up with the following team: keeper - Bosnich, sweeper - Zelic, Stopper - Moore, Backs - Lazaridis & Kewell, Midfield - Okon, A.Vidmar, Lozanovski, Forwards - Viduka, Veart and Spiteri.

A team of both youth and experience which given enough time together would prove a formidable opponent for any team, let alone the qualifiers. On top of this team you could include T.Vidmar, Horvat, Agostino, Corica, Popovic, Bozinovski, plus many more. With talent like that what is the purpose of this series, it will achieve little. For 99.9% of the players here won't make the squad and if they were that good they wouldn't still be playing here.

Given my feelings on our domestic players whom I feel are virtually a third eleven, why are shirt numbers 1-11 used I feel Soccer Australia should adopt the policy many other countries have of using alternative numbers unless the players is a member of the first eleven. This would give greater value to the jersey.

Finally, I'd like to say that some of the senior members of the squad are depriving 'up and comers' a chance to gain valuable experience in matches that aren't crucial but would test their metal. Wade and Farina showed character and style in retiring when they did, and I hope these fellows follow suit as their performance is not what it used to be.

R. Feher
WOOLLAHRA, NSW.

Editors Note: You'll have to get used to watching your so called '3rd eleven' in Australia. Being realistic the overseas based players will only perform in Australia on rare occasions.

"I must be going mad — I keep arguing with the ref."

Geographically based teams

Dear Sir,

I believe Dominic Scullino is on the right track with his letter 'super clubs why not?' in ABSW on 21/1/97.

We need to make a new league where we will have good quality teams with Australia's best players playing full-time soccer. We must learn from basketball where they have one team per city to create a professional league of high quality. It is better to watch a game with 20, 000 people than to have four games with 5, 000 people each. People attract people, the atmosphere will be bigger it will look great for television and be great for the game.

Our league should be our show piece and it should be a showcase of Aussie talent where our best can compete against each other lifting the standard of the game to new heights. This is how you promote the game to all Australians, we should not be promoting mediocrity. Let's make the league as strong and marketable as possible. Every team will represent a geographical region and not an ethnic group. To get soccer appealing to all Aussies means appealing to their geographic region and not their ethnic origins. We've tried that in the past and it has not worked.

It should be people from different backgrounds supporting the same team together as one, for we are all Aussies now and proud of it.

Soccer can play a major role in uniting this great country of ours. Perth Glory is a good example of what can be achieved if a club represents its geographic region. It is supported by Australians with different origins who are united by sharing the same region. These people are proud of the team that represents them.

What has happened in the West with Perth Glory can be duplicated all over Australia, I guarantee you. Go Aussie Go!!

Paul Bottari
PERTH, WA

Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.

The Editor,
Australian & British Soccer Weekly
PO BOX 155,
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Short letters of about 400 words will be given preference in this column.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

COMPARE POPULATION TO CROWDS

Dear Sir,

I cannot let Mr Melor's Letter to the Editor of 14/1/96 pass without a response.

Mr Melor describes the crowds of Gippsland and Canberra as "disastrous". As he is a resident of Sydney, I suggest that Mr Mellor examine the crowds in his own backyard before he criticises Canberra and Gippsland.

Canbera has 300,000 people and gets an average 2,700 fans. Sydney crowds range from about 3,000 to 7,000 in a typical season, with the occasional crowd above 7,000 (excluding local derbies). This is in a city of about 3.5 million people, where no more than two of the three clubs in Sydney play at home most weekends.

Therefore, any Sydney team has over 1.7 million people from which to draw its fans,a far higher population than Canberra and Gippsland have to draw from and about six times Canberra's base. This would mean that each Sydney team should draw around 16,000 fans to equal Canberra's 'disastrous' effort.

Of course the Sydney clubs draw far less, sadly being studiously ignored by the vast majority of soccer followers in Sydney. What Sydney desperately needs is a powerful non-ethnic team which most soccer followers in Sydney can identify with.

A Sydney-Melbourne axis of clubs does not constitute a national league. I contend that the 'regionals' help make a national league, truly national.

He praises UTS Olympic for maintaining their supporter base, when in fact their crowds are as elastic as any other club. If they are in a slump their crowds slide to the 3,000 level.

Mr Melor also berates Soccer Australia. He can't seriously be suggesting that we go back to the moribund days pre David Hill?

Perhaps, in relishing the underwhelming Sydney crowds, Mr Melor feels threatened by SA positoning soccer as a mainstream sport, which large numbers of Sydneysiders would attend.

Peter Kunz
CANBERRA, ACT.

Editors Note: Now you're talking. A Sydney based team that everyone can support. Good thinking. How can it become reality?

RUFFLED FEATHERS

Dear Sir,

It looks like I have ruffled a few feathers with my letter to your paper, particularly Ross Greig.from New Lambton. While some of his response has merit and truth like holding the NSL crowd record, the rest of his letter is emotional nonsense. Firstly, it doesn't matter if Sydney is 7 or 8 times larger in population, it's still a huge difference. Secondly he forgot to mention that London has a lot more teams than either Manchester, Liverpool or Birmingham. Thirdly if the Newcastle supporters club were real fans they wouldn't desert their team to such an extent, regardless of economic conditions, just because of their total lack of success on the field. With 14 points on the table at the moment they are still capable of making the top 6 and play in the finals.

On the other side, and even with their size I still advocated one team only in Sydney and Melbourne for now, because of strong oppostion from league and rules in those cities. With regard to the Townsville situation you only have to see the crowds at the North Queensland Cowboys games to see that they come from all over North Queensland, with average games in the past two years of over 20,000 at Stockland Stadum which will increase to 30,000 this year with Super League. There is no way that all those people are Townsville residents.

Put simply with 100,000 population no city any where in the world in any code of football draws 30% of its city pop. to one game of football, not even in Melbourne for Aussie rules.

Finally, as you would know the reason mentioned for an extra Kiwi side would be to stop Auckland from fielding a complete national side if admitted.and as far as the measley 8 teams only well that was meant to be a starting point and open to debate over time. However, I maintain that 8 or 10 teams should be the maximum in a professional comp with Newcastle only to stay if its supporters would stick by its team and come out in droves like they used to in the late seventies, or is the novelty of being in the national comp wearing thin for most of their fans?

Ross Greig's letter was full of half truths plenty of exaggerations and no imagination - in short, emotional nonsense (because the truth hurts).

Dominic Scullino
HELENSVALE, QLD.

Venables at the Olympics

Dear Sir,

I don't know about you but I am still seething over the Olyroos exit from the Olympics in Atlanta. With the quality of players (Aurelio Vidmar, Steve Corica, Steve Horvat and Mark Viduka) we should have done much better, in fact, we should have qualified for the next round, even with the quality of opposition.

I blame the naive and negative coaching of Eddie Thomson, The game against Spain was a classic example of his coaching; overly cautious and lacking in adventure and confidence in Australian soccer players. We led 2-0 and had them on the ropes!! A place in the next round was ours, three years of preparation coming to fruition when it really mattered: at the Olympics. So what does that idiot coach Thomson do? He allows the Spaniards to come at us, making us sitting ducks for them, in particular the skillful Raul. Talk about lacking in international experience!

Imagine if Terry Venables coached the Olyroos in the Atlanta Olympics? What a difference a knowledgable and internationally experienced coach would have done for our boys. No wonder David Hill went off at Eddie Thomson after the game!

Good riddance Eddie, Australia deserved and got better. Through David Hill's prescience and vision we now have a real coach.Well done Socceroos for beating Norway, a team that plays like Australia used to play - boring.. Now it's time to take on the world; and Terry Venables and David Hill are just the men to do it!

Despina Manolis
VAUCLUSE, NSW.

LETS PLAY WITH ASEAN!

Dear Sir,

I appreciate Steven Anderson's support for my Asian idea in the article I wrote entitled 'New Group For Australia' (31 December 1996). However, I was not really advocating that we try and join the awesome Asian Football Confederation because we have been through it all before and quite simply, they don't want us.

My suggestion was that Soccer Australia should make every effort to join the regional group of 10 AFC Members that calls itself ASEAN consisting of Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Vietnam, Laos, Brunei, Cambodia Philippines and Myanmar.

It is not a full Confederation but a loose assosiation of soccer-playing nations from our part of the world and they would make excellent sparring partners for the domestic-based 'Socceroos'. ASEAN even has it's own National competition called 'The Tiger Cup' which has just been played for in Singapore and was won by Thailand.

Now it is true that the countries hardly get the adrenalin running, but when you realise that between them they total a combined population of over 400 millions, (which is more than South America) and you add to it the facts that they are booming economically as well as getting more and more into soccer, then becoming even an associate member of such an organisation must surely be worth looking at.

Not to mention the fact that becoming part of this group would get our foot in the door of what is surely every Australian soccer followers ultimate goal - full membership of the Asian Football Confederation.

Joining ASEAN would not alter our position within Oceania and a similar situation already exists with Mexico, which is a full member of CONCACAF, but is allowed to participate in the South American National Championships as a guest.

Henry Wizgier
DEE WHY, NSW.

Programmed Robots

Dear Sir,

The British media labelled the Norwegian team 'SNORE-WAY' for reasons that are quite self evident. In the World Cup USA '94 they won the award for being the most boring team hands down. Prior to USA '94 they had only qualified for the World Cup once way back in 1938, thankfully.

Ironically one of their victims in their quest for qualification for France '98 has been Hungary, who the overseas based Socceroos will trial against this year. In its heyday in the fifties Hungarian football achieved a standard of excellence rarely exceeded either before or since. The great Hungarian teams epitomised much of what made football such a great and universally popular game.

That today's Norway side can cast aside the current Hungarian team comes as no surprise to anyone familiar with the state of football in Hungary. More disturbing is that national and club teams of the style of Norway whose players are more akin to strong durable programmed robots continue to triumph at the expense of players and teams that place more emphasis on skill, flair, technique and enteprising play - which in my opinion are the game's lifeblood. The manager of the Norwegian team is a very distuinguished mathematician (or so I am told). Need I say more, other than to advise Norwegian football they need a new coach. Eddie Thomson, ex-Socceroo coach could be very suitable as a choice, he may not be an academic but he is certainly on their (football) wavelength.

R. Mellor
BONDI, NSW

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ERICSSON CUP MATCH REPORTS

Experience gives Sharks edge

West Adelaide 2 — Newcastle Breakers 1

A second half panic attack cost Newcastle Breakers victory in the national league match at Hindmarsh Stadium on Sunday.

Boosted by a fourth minute goal, the young Breakers dominated the Sharks for the first hour but fell apart soon after allowing West to win 2-1 and stay in touch with the top six.

A sizzling run through the penalty area by Youth Socceroo Clayton Zane led to the first goal with his cross deflected in by West defender Frank Tibaldi.

The Sharks defence, without Robbie Slager and Con Kokkinoplitis, was cracking but it was Newcastle's which self destructed late in the game.

The turning point came in the 59th minute when goalkeeper Liam Baker ran out of his area to try and cut off a through ball to West striker Jim Tsekinis.

He never had a chance of making it and was rounded by Tsekinis, with his shot at the open goal blocked by a lunging Newcastle defender. The ball rebounded to Tsekinis, who was tripped as he tried to pass Matt Austin. Captain Robbie Hooker buried the penalty kick.

10 minutes later Tsekinis volleyed home the winner from the edge of the penalty area after Newcastle failed to properly clear a cross from Nathan Day.

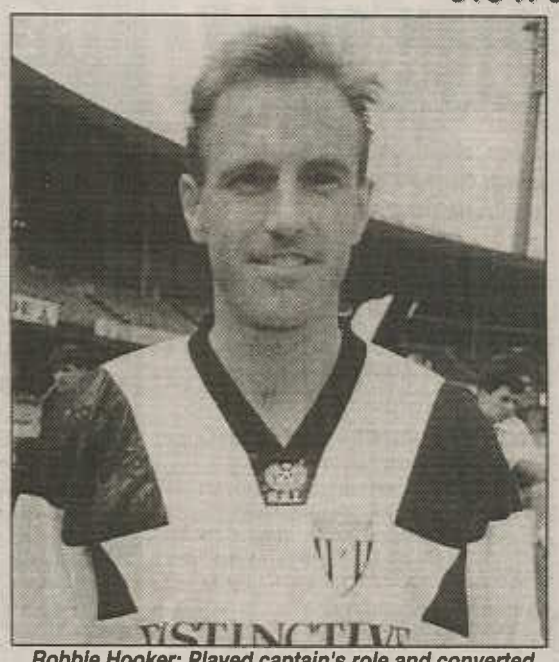
Possible victory had turned to defeat for the Breakers, who had all the early chances and could have been up by more had Jason Bennett finished better and West keeper Michael Harkness had not been in such great touch.

A first half free kick from Troy Halpin, who dominated the midfield in the first half, was brilliantly blocked by Harkness and it rebounded into the path of Bennett, who skied his shot over the crossbar from five metres out.

Bennett was given another chance to score 10 minutes into the second half when a through ball baffled the Sharks defence, paving the way for the striker to have a one-on-one with Harkness.

This time he was chopped down by the keeper as he tried to get around him but referee Andy Gorton ignored the calls for a penalty.

West extended its winning run to four games and kept seventh spot on the NSL ladder.



Robbie Hooker: Played captain's role and converted the penalty.

WEST ADELAIDE
Harkness: Hooker, Alagich, Aloisi, Cardoza, Day (Perin 86), Tibaldi, Tsekenis, Artone (Milosevic 77), Thorp (Borghetto 68), Pezas

NEWCASTLE
Baker: Pryce, Sprod, Zane, Halpin (Ritchie 74), McManus, Roberts (Thomas 74), Bennett, Wilson, Austin, McGuire.

Scorers:
WEST: Hooker (59pen), Tsekinis (68)
NEWCASTLE: Own Goal (4)

Yellow Cards:
WEST: Borghetto (69)
NEWCASTLE: Sprod (20)

Referee: A.Gorton
Crowd: 5,044
POY: 3-Harkness (WA)
2-Halpin - (NB)
1-Tsekenis (WA)

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News in Brief...

By BOB BROOKS

THE trials and tribulations of a coach are many. The satisfaction of gaining the senior job at a seemingly progressive club sometimes leads to frustration and disappointment. This can even take place before the seson kicks off.

Committees have to accept that their job is to support their choice of coach in his endeavours to gain success on the playing field. The coaches task is to map out a training plan which ensures fitness for the first game and to select what he considers to be players who can perform to requirements.

Just because a person is head of the football committee gives him no right to direct the coach who to or not to select nor to interfere in training plans.

Believe it or not something similar to the above has already taken place in Sydney in the last few weeks. Makes you wonder what ambition, if any, a club has when this sort of nonsense goes on.

It's interesting to note the Women's international match between Australia and the USA will take place in Bathurst.

If the local radio stations in the Golden West, as this area is known, Prime TV and the press get behind the venture then a good sized crowd could be attracted.

Dianne Alagich

There are a large number of players in the area and a top line men's competition involving Orange, Lithgow, Coura and Young. Dubbo has a thriving soccer community.

It is not unusual for people to travel 500km in a round trip to attend functions in this area, which may come as a shock to you city dwellers.

Hopefully, AWSA can tempt large numbers of Sydneysiders to go to Bathurst for this very big and important occasion.

Noticed something unusual at the SFS the other night. During the game between South Korea and New Zealand the sideline advertisements were in Korean on the western side.

However, when Norway took the field in the second half against the Socceroos they had been changed to ones more relevant to the Scandinavian country.

Guess the two games went out live to South Korea and Norway respectively.

Were the games transmitted to other countries? Would be interesting to know?

So the experienced campaigner, David Mitchell has signed with UTS Olympic. It is to be hoped that Mitch still has something significant left to give. Unfortunately, when Jim Patikas returned to these shores he was completely sucked dry.

Mitch is still a "saleable commodity" because this office received a phone call from a crew from a West of England TV station. They wanted to contact him on order to 'do an inteview'. They were in Oz doing other things.

Mitchell played for some time with Swindon which is within the organisations transmission area.

David Mitchell: Still highly regarded in England.

In 1985 while in Auckland, New Zealand it was discovered that Mitch had a Scottish accent. Now you need to know that he was raised in Adelaide from a very young age.

The reason for the accent "Dad used to tell me off when I came home from school with an Aussie accent." So the obedient boy learned to speak like his father an immigrant from Scotland. Mind it would have stood him in good stead when he went to Rangers.

Teams rise like Saturn rockets to the heights and some disintegrate back in showers of sparks.

One such in NSW is Mt Druitt Town Rangers. They stormed into the top competition - Super league. The local council in Blacktown built them modern changing rooms, a grandstand and meeting rooms. Money was spent on modest pitch improvements. Sponsorship to sustain the club at the elite level was pledged but evaporated.

Inevitably, they plunged into First and then Second division

However, a determined bunch of folks are now working hard to re-build for the future.

Licenses premises have been acquired for transformation into a Club. This should come to fruition in 1997. Rooty Hill Gunners has been taken over and absorbed into Mt Druitt Town. This gives the resurrectors an additional floodlit playing facility.

First grade coach is Bob Harding. Although they have filled the under 18 ranks with 70 turning up to try out,there are still vacancies in Reserves and Firsts.

Well known Youth Coach Gerry Askew has been appointed to the vital Directors job in that area. The club will field teams in the NSW Youth league from Under 13 to 16.

ABSW wishes them well for a solid and satisfying future.

SBS TV are doing us all a favour on Thursday February 13 from 7.15 until 8.30. We have the opportunity to view a delayed, full telecast of the vital World Cup qualifier England versus Italy.

Paulo Maldini: Can he inspire Italy to victory.

The game will have taken place on Wednesday evening at Wembley Stadium from about 6.30am AEST when many of us are heading to work.

England will have the in-form skipper Alan Shearer leading their attack and skippering the side. Glenn Hoddle will be hoping that mercurial Paul Gascoigne will be free of his injury sustained early last week in Amsterdam.

This will be an early test for newish coach for the Italians, Cesare Maldini and their captain Paulo Maldini

Exciting peak hour viewing for those who can win the box from other family members!

Mick Lyons: Remains in charge at Canberra for rest of season.

Mick Lyons has been confirmed as Canbera Cosmos coach for the remainder of the season by the board of management. However, General Manager, Alan Reis has resigned from his position.

Considering that Lyons' contract would have had to be paid out and any new appointee paid additional monies,then the board made a sensible business decision.

The team's lowly spot can hardly be improved on, so all they can do as a club is work towards an improved 1998.

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V.S.F. Preview ... CONTINUED

By DWYGHT TUFFNELL

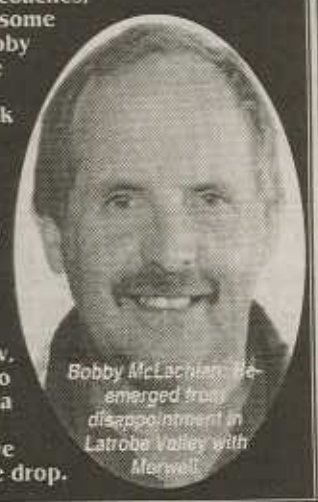
FAWKNER BLUES

Coach: Bobby McLachlan
Ground: C.B. Smith Reserve, Fawkner
1996 Position: 13th

Fawkner Blues are only in the Premier League because of the Bulleen-Box Hill merger, after finishing 13th in last year's competition.

With the strong squad they have it was hard to believe, but the club did go through three coaches, which created some instability. Bobby McLachlan, the third of the coaches is back again and will be looking to do more than just guide the team to safety from relegation.

Players of the calibre of Michael Branov, Rino Minichello and Ricky Ferla might just be enough to save them from the drop.



Bobby McLachlan: Re-emerged from disappointment in Latrobe Valley with Morwell.

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS

Coach: Chris Taylor
Ground: Green Gully Reserve, Keilor
1996 Position: 3rd

Green Gully were one of the more impressive sides of 1996. After finishing in fifth position, they made it all the way to the preliminary final before falling to Altona Magic.

They may go further this season as they managed to keep most of last year's side together.

Vlad Babic was the star for the Cavaliers last term, along with goalkeeper Chris Vella.

Babic had a short stint at Collingwood Warriors before returning to Green Gully. He will be one of the focal points in 1997. Another who should stand out is new signing Nick Radecki.

HEIDELBERG UNITED

Coach: Dusan Brnovic.
Ground: Olympic Village Heidelberg West
1996 Position: 2nd

Heidelberg had the side to win the 1996 Premier League but lost on penalties to Altona Magic.

Earlier in the season it looked like no team would come close to them, such was their form. But it seemed their form slipped at the same time as it was announced that Collingwood Warriors were admitted to the Ericsson Cup.

Heidelberg have lost many players to the Warriors and coach Dusan Brnovic will need to rebuild. However a club as strong as Heidelberg cannot be ruled out of title contention.

MELTON REDSOX

Coach: Gus Macleod
Ground: MacPherson Park, Melton
1996 Position: 10th

The Albion Redsox have relocated to the outer western Melbourne suburb of Melton.Troubles with their old Selwyn Park ground and other reasons led to the move out west.

The Redsox used four coaches last year and the fourth, Gus Macleod, returns to take the club, hopefully, to a better positon than the tenth they finished last year. They certainly have the players to make a more favourable impression on this year's league.

Ahmet Gurpinar, Martin Collins and Carlos Retre are three key players for the Redsox.

NORTH GEELONG WARRIORS

Coach: Marty Bozic
Ground: Elcho Park, Lara Lake
1996 Position: 9th

After an impressive start to the 1996 season, North Geelong faded badly and were very unimpressive late in the season. This was due mainly to the inexperience of their squad The Warriors have the youngest side in the league.

The club will again need to draw on the soccer talent of Geelong to replace John Didulica (Sydney United), his brother Joe, Ante Deak and Mijo Trupkovic, who have all gone to Melbourne Knights. That will not be easy.

The four were North's best players last season, but they have other talented youngsters. Whether it will be enough to mount a serious challenge remains to be seen.

PORT MELBOURNE SHARKS

Coach: Ken Murphy
Ground: S.S Anderson Reserve, Port Melbourne
1996 Position: 7th

In the second half of last year's season, Port Melbourne were arguably the best side in the competition. Under Frank Arok they beat four of the top five sides with only their early season form costing them a place in the finals.

Arok is now gone as are several of their players with him, but the club has made a smart choice appointing Ken Murphy as its new coach. Murphy has some rebuilding to do, Alex Duric, Clayton Bell and Nick Palamares are just some of the names missing from Port Melbourne.

But the Sharks still have the basis of a good side with striker Nick Tsaltas being the main man.

Ken Murphy: Returns to coaching ranks with Port Melbourne.

Preston Lions

Coach: Andon Doncevski
Ground: Goodyear Stadium, Reservoir
1996 Position: Runners up in first division.

To think that 1994 Premier League Champions, Preston Lions, would be relegated the following year was unfathomable. But the Lions are back after finshing runners-up to Springvale White Eagles in the first division last season.

An almost new squad from that of the 1994 champions took the club back to the Premie League. Former Wollongong City player, Chris Sterjovski, is Preston's key player.

He makes up what is largely a young side, one that will be desperate to improve on Preston's performance the last time they were in the Premier League.

SPRINGVALE WHITE EAGLES

Coach: Dennis Kalezic
Ground: Serbian Sports Centre, Keysborough
1996 Position: First division champions

Springvale White Eagles make their debut in the Premier League after winning a very tough first division last year, the year after being promoted from second division. A club with a big supporter base and an impressive complex at the Serbian Sports Centre, the White Eagles will be the side to look out for in 1997.

They have recruited well, enticing Jean - Paul Knezevic and Sasa Nikolic from South Melbourne and Danny Gnjidic from Thomastown Zebras. But the player to watch will be Zlatko Mihajlovic. A player in the mould of John Markovski, Mihajilovic played Premier League for Springvale City.

ST ALBANS SAINTS

Coach: Dave O'Connor
Ground: Churchill Reserve, St Albans
1996 Position: 12th

St Albans were spared from relegation in 1995 thanks to the merger between Thomastown and Melbourne Zebras. Last season they found themselves once again embroiled in a relegation battle that they just managed to survive.

Dave O'Connor comes back as coach attempting to guide the club away from lower table obscurity. One player the Saints missed for much of last season was Ivan Colina.

A fully fit Colina along with players like Paul Magdic and Mick Colina plus the inevitable loan player or two from Melbourne Knights might just be enough to steer the Saints away from the drop.

SUNSHINE GEORGIES

Coach: Willie Vassallo
Ground: Chaplin Reserve, Sunshine
1996 Position: 4th

After years of coming unstuck during the finals series, Sunshine Georgies will be hoping to go even further this time around Willie Vassallo's Sunshine side were unbeaten at the halfway point of last season but fell to deadly rivals Green Gully in the first semi final. The Georgies squad contained no real superstars but were consistent enough to be a danger to any side.

Juan Nilo will be the key player for the Georgies again but it is the enormous number of young players the club has that could make an impact this year. Midfielder Chris Daglaras wasn't at his best last year and with the likes of Anthony Cassar firing, the Georgies should be up there again.

THOMASTOWN ZEBRAS

Coach: Maurice Raponi
Ground: Partridge Reserve, Lalor
1996 Position: 6th

Thomastown Zebras were probably the most disappointing team of last season. They failed to make the finals only a year after they were relegated from the national league as Melbourne SC, formerly Brunswick. Their squad was one of the better ones in the league and under Ken Murphy, they were tipped to go all the way and win the league.

A last day defeat against Altona Magic condemned them to sixth place, not good enough for a team that included players like Ransford Bannini, Harry Ngata and Joe Tricarico. They have new coach in Maurice Raponi and there will be big changes to the squad Gone are Bannini, Ngata, Tricarico and a few others but the Zebras still have the players to make a reasonable challenge.

AROUND THE CLUBS

"GLORY DAYS" Shine Brighter

by Richard Kreider

The Perth Glory juggernaut just gets bigger and better, following the exciting news that the high-flying rookie club has secured its own television program.The show, titled 'Glory Days', begins on Channel Seven tonight at 11.05pm.

"The tremendous success of Perth Glory has created a new sporting interest for the people of WA and the record attendances at the (home) games reflects the need for a show committed to soccer and Perth Glory, " said the program's host Basil Zempilas. "The show will capture the spirit and emotion that is taking place at the Glory games."

The last Perth television program that focused on the local soccer scene was Channel Ten's "Soccer Scene" in 1993, which was hosted by former cricket great Ian Brayshaw and ex-Socceroo Robbie Dunn. Before that, there was nothing after a short segment in the mid-sixties on ABC TV.

'Glory Days' will focus on the team and offer viewers weekly highlights, player profiles and club news.Giveaways and competition opportunities will be also be included in the weekly half-hour program.

Meanwhile, at a meeting of NSL managers in Sydney last week, Glory General Manager, Roger Lefort urged other clubs to offer more to their respective supporters than just a soccer match, if they are to emulate the success Perth are currently enjoying.

Lefort told the officials the right marketing strategy which includes pre-match entertainment, together with adventurous, attacking soccer from the Glory team, has provided the perfect day out for WA sports fans.

OLYMPIC TAKE ON SOUTH KOREA

UTS Olympic Chairman, Gary Punch, was delighted to announce that the South Korean National team will play against his club, UTS Olympic, tonight Tuesday February 4, at Belmore Sports Ground.

The South Koreans, who impressed everyone with their speed and skill in the recent 'Four Nations Tournament', will be keen to complete their time in Australia with a good result against UTS Olympic.

"This match is a great opportunity to further broaden the significant supporter base which Olympic already has. We will be targeting the large Korean community in the Belmore area," Mr Punch said.

Contrary to previous reports, the Koreans are to fly out sometime later this week.

The match kicks off tonight at 7.00pm and is being played at Belmore Sports Ground located in Leylands Parade Belmore. Admission is $5 for adults with free entry for children under 12 years of age.

Kim Kyung-Ji: South Korea's international goalie could be in against Olympic.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION

FIRST DIVISION

ROUND ONE

Sunday February 9

Rockdale City Suns v Illawarra Lions
Rockdale Ilinden Sports Centre — 3pm

★ ★ ★

Fairfield Bulls v Warringah Dolphins
Ninevah Field — 3pm

☆ ☆ ☆

Bathurst '75 v Eastern Suburbs
Alec Lamberton — 3pm

★ ★ ★

Penrith Panthers v Hills United
Penrith Park — 3pm

☆ ☆ ☆

Mt. Pritchard v Auburn United
Cook Park — 3pm

★ ★ ★

Stanmore Hawks v Belmore Hercules
Arlington Oval — 3pm

☆ ☆ ☆

Ryde City v West Wanderers
Macquarie Uni. No. 3

★ ★ ★

Greystanes v Hurstville City Minotaurs
Melita Stadium — 3pm

SOCCER NSW INFORMATION SERVICE 0055 22885

Max. call cost 75c/min. — IDS (Higher rate applies with mobile and public phones)

NSW FIRST DIVISION KICKS OFF THIS WEEKEND

By PAUL GOODWIN

All is in readiness for the opening of the 1997 NSW Soccer Federation as the sixteen First Division clubs begin their 30 match programme on Sunday.

Starting four weeks ahead of the other divisions, the clubs face some busy times, with double-headers on quite a few weeks during the year. At Melita Stadium, the curtain raiser to the Super League pre-season games feature First Division newcomers Greystanes, who have been progressing through the divisions in recent years and come into the match as reigning premiers and champions of the second division.

They take on Hurstville City Minotaurs, with the first grade at 3pm and it will be a good measuring stick for the host club which will be using the Melita ground for the early months of the season until their new Garside Park headquarters is ready for occupation.

The Minotaurs are talent stacked and will pose a tough challenge, but the workmanlike 'Stanes' are sure to make them fight every inch of the way.

The game precedes the two Super League Cup games featuring Blacktown and Bonnyrigg at 5 and the Parramatta and the Sydney United event at 7. At Rockdale Ilinden Sports Centre, Rockdale Suns and Illawarra Lions renew their Macedonian based rivalries having both lost their Super League status at the end of last year.

Neither has regrouped well enough yet to inspire huge optimism, but with new Illawarra coach Ljube Jancev cracking the whip we can see a very good contest in prospect.

A new look Faifield Bulls take on the relegated Warringah Dolphins at Nineveh Field, the home side likely to prevail if they can get all their new signings fit enough for the debut game of new coach Tony Dunn. Warringah guv'nor Agenor Muniz is banking on youth this year and could have a few Brazilian style tricks to show the Fairfield supporters.

Bathurst are at home to Eastern Suburbs and will expect to begin on a postitive note. At Penrith Park the Panthers are going to give Hills United a game to remember going on the past encounters.

Lawrie McKinna's Hills have the more settled side with only a couple of changes, but Penrith will look to old friends and defensive partners Andy Brockbank and David Fitzharris to lift a very young outfit under the watchful eye of Stan Ackerly.

Mount Pritchard hosts Auburn at Cook Park in Cabramatta West with the Mounties looking to start the season under Vic Dalgleish with a win, just as they did last term, away from home, against eventual premiers Sydney Cosmos (whose place is now taken by Eastern Suburbs).

Stanmore Hawks have a difficult assignment at Arlington Oval against Belmore Hercules, with Stanmore new coach John Sentas pleased, so far, with the team's preparation, but concerned about the many big names in the Belmore side which is being led this year by the colourful Marhall Soper.

Ryde City, normally based at TG Millner field, face West Wanderers at Macquarie University No3 and will be wary as their season opener has seen them beaten more often than they will care to remember in recent years. A stronger Ryde, with new players Danny Blanco, Mathew Borg and Jim Boudaher included, surely will have too many guns for the westerners.

NSW KICKS OFF SUPER LEAGUE

The NSW Super League will kick off its 1997 season, with the Super League Pre-Season Cup. Starting next weekend, the Super League Pre-season Cup will run for six weeks concluding with the final on Sunday March 16, 1997.

The twelve Super League clubs have been split into two groups, Northern and Southern, with the winners of each group contesting the final at the Gabbie Stadium. Up for grabs in the final will be $11,000 with the winner to pocket a healthy $9,000 and the runner-up $2,000.

The Southern group will kick off the tournament on Saturday February 8 with a triple header at Seymour Shaw Park, Miranda. The first match of the series will see last season's premiers Sutherland Sharks take on close neighbours St George Saints at 3pm and will be followed by Macarthur Rams versus Bankstown City Lions, with the final match pitting Canterbury Marrickville against Leichardt Tigers at 7pm.

The Northern group play their first matches on the Sunday with a double-header at Melita Stadium, South Granville, featuring Blacktown City and Bonnyrigg White Eagles in the first match at 5pm, followed by home side Parramatta Eagles against Super League new boys Sydney United.

The third match will see last season's grand finalist Adamstown Rosebud at Pluim Park, Lisarow, taking on the Central Coast, kicking off at 7pm.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION

SUPER LEAGUE

PRE-SEASON CUP

ROUND ONE

Southern Group

Saturday February 8

Sutherland Sharks v St. George Saints
Seymour Shaw Park, Miranda — 3pm

☆ ☆ ☆

Macarthur Rams v City Lions
Seymour Shaw Park — 5pm

★ ★ ★

Canterbury M/ville v Leichhardt Tigers
Seymour Shaw Park — 7pm

☆ ☆ ☆

Northern Group

Blacktown City Demons v Bonnyrigg W.E.
Melita Stadium, South Granville — 5pm

☆ ☆ ☆

Parramatta Eagles v Sydney United
Melita Stadium — 7pm

★ ★ ★

Central Coast v Adamstown Rosebud
Pluim Park, Lisarow — 7pm

☆ ☆ ☆

SOCCER NSW INFORMATION SERVICE 0055 22885

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(Higher rate applies with mobile and public phones)

AROUND THE CLUBS

Wolves Kiwi prepared for sacrifice

By PHIL MURPHY

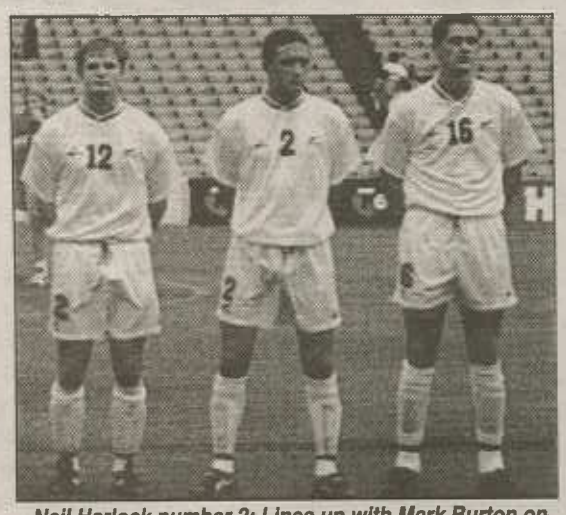
Neil Harlock is prepared to put club before country. The Wolves Kiwi international could have to make a very important decision if New Zealand play Oceania World Cup qualifying games in April. His country will be vying to take a big step towards France '98, while his club could be in the thick of the Ericsson Cup playoff battle.

Harlock told ABSW it would be a tough decision. "The New Zealand officials told me last week the games could be played in April, not June as they first thought, " Harlock said.

"If that is the case, I will be sticking with the Wolves because I am confident they will be still up near the top of the table. I believe the team is capable of doing really well in the second half of the season."

Harlock played in all three New Zealand games in the recent Optus four nations series but thought the side lacked the fitness. "I was lucky to be playing and training regularly over here, " he said.

"Some of the boys weren't quite up to it and we weakened in the final 20 minutes of each game. I enjoyed being back on the international scene and thought we played quite well against Australia to lose by just the one goal. There seemed to be an inferiority complex within the squad against Australia. Against South Korea, we played really well, scored first but then our fitness ran out and we lost 3-1."



Neil Harlock number 2: Lines up with Mark Burton on his right and Vaughn Coveny for New Zealand at the SFS.

Harlock has played consistently well as the left wing-back for the Wolves.

After signing at the start of the season he has scored two goals and generally proved very popular with the Brandon Park crowd.

☛Sonny Sevin is unlikely to be playing with Ericsson Cup newcomers Carlton next season. A report from Melbourne last week said Sevin had signed with Carlton for 97/98. Unless Carlton are ready to part with a hefty compensation fee, they won't have Sevin in their side.

The talented midfielder signed a two year contract with Wollongong and that doesn't expire until May 1998. Wolves Chairman Brian Hastings said he was angry when he read the report that Sevin "had put pen to paper. I have spoken to Carlton and they have since faxed an apology to us, " Hastings said. "They tell us there was a mix up; they didn't know Sonny was signed up for two years."

Hastings said they were confident of signing UTS Olympic striker Norman Tome for next season."We have agreed terms with Norman's manager and his contract with Olympic is up at the end of the season. We signed Manis Lamond last week and he will be with us until the end of the season. Hopefully, he will re-sign for next season."Lamond had been training with his old club, Sydney United, since returning from Singapore at the end of November.

Now 30, he was keen to get involved in the national league again but United said he was surplus to requirements. Lamond said Collingwood and Melbourne Knights had been keen to sign him but he had been impressed by the way things had turned around at Wollongong.

MAKING MOVES TO FULL PROFESSIONALISM

By DWYGHT TUFFNELL

Carlton soccer club have signed Wollongong City midfielder Sonny Sevin. Two other players have signed up and the club are holding discussions with several other players, including two Sydney based Socceroos who took part in the recent Optus World Soccer Series. Sevin will return to Melbourne to be part of what the club plans will be the first fully professional soccer club in Australia.

Along with Sevin, Carlton have snapped up highly rated New Zealand international goalkeeper, Jason Batty. Batty played for the Kiwis in the Optus World Series and was regarded by Kiwi coach Keith Pritchett as the player to watch during the tournament. The third player is promising VIS midfielder, Andy Vargas. Vargas played for Springvale City Vales in the last Victorian Premier League season, shortly after returning from Chile where he had a stint with Colo Colo.

Recently appointed coach,Eddie Krncevic, will play out the season with the Gippsland Falcons before taking on the role in April. His assistant will be former Brunswick Juventus player, Fab Incantalupo.

Eddie Krncevic: Confirmed as Carlton S.C. coach but playing out season with Gippsland.

Carlton have also revealed they have managed to lure Argentinian side Boca Juniors and 1991 European Cup winners, Red Star Belgrade, for a round robin tournament to be played at the Optus Oval in January.

LOWE RETURNS TO PLAYING ARENA

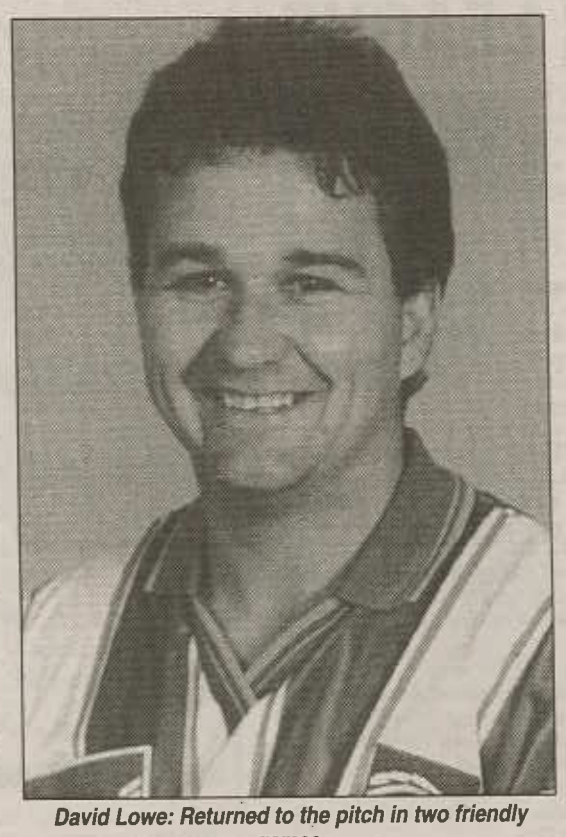
By DANE SKAFTE

Breakers captain David Lowe made his return to the field last week after having being sidelined for the past three months with a niggling calf injury. The 33 year old former Socceroo suffered the injury against Canbera last November, "I am pretty happy. I pulled up well and the leg felt OK. My main concern is getting my match fitness back. It is difficult when you have had a rough run with injuries."

Lowe is expecting this to be his last season at national level, "I would love to play as much as I can in the second round," he said. "If I can turn a couple of draws into wins nobody is beyond our reach, we showed that against Sydney United."

Lowe agreed that his side has a good basis of young players and are a very competitive side."Everybody should be fresh for the second half of the Ericsson Cup," Lowe concluded.

Lowe took part in the Breakers Youth squad trial match against the Central Coast team, which they won 6-1. He also played the second half in a trial against local first division reserve grade side Edgeworth Eagles.



David Lowe: Returned to the pitch in two friendly games.

☛Newcastle Topper Breakers' corporate lunch which was to be held today (Tuesday) at Wallsend RSL has been postponed until further notice. The Breakers had originally contacted Brisbane Strikers' captain/coach Frank Farina to be a guest speaker at the luncheon, but Farina had to cancel due to personal commitments with his own club.

Breakers media liason officer Shane Johnson told ABSW last week, "we tried to contact Terry Venables but he will be preparing to fly out for England, we even attempted to get Graham Arnold but he was also unavailable due to overseas commitments."

☛Adamstown Rosebuds and Newcastle Topper Breakers will present their cases to Soccer Australia over compensation fees forLiam Baker and Liam McGuire this Thursday night via a phone link. A Soccer Australia spokesperson said that the clubs failed to reach an agreement regarding the compensation fees. "The matter will be now held in front of the tribunal committe who will decide the outcome."

Davidson at Victoria Park

Collingwood Warriors come back from the break with two new additions to their playing personnel. Former South Melbourne, Melbourne Knights and Socceroo legend Alan Davidson joins the club from Malaysian side Pahang.

The club has also signed defender Paul Della Rocca from Bulleen Inter, just after Inter had signed him from Thomastown Zebras. Della Rocca has previous national league experience with Morwell Falcons and Melbourne Zebras.

Another defender, George Jolevski, has been released by the club. The club has undergone changes at administration level too, with the departure of the club's Chief Executive Officer, Arthur Evriniadis. Collingwood Football Club representative, Rob Petrie, takes over the position in a caretaker role. "Six months ago Collingwood Football Club were very keen to get involved in this venture and I think it's just a case of relaunching the club and getting on with the job" said Petrie.

Petrie said the club will review at the end of the season whether or not they will change the club's colours to the black and white of CFC, without the splashes of yellow that the team's shirts currently have. The crowds, says Petrie, will be back once they start winning again, especially the football club members. "Our intention right from the start was to get the football members involved".

Alan Davidson: Seen in 1980 as a youngster soon to make his mark.

"What we wanted was a Collingwood football team at Victoria Park 12 months of the year and that's what we still plan to do". Petrie says the club have proved that they can be successful despite coming into the league this season rather than waiting like Carlton. "I think there are advantages in waiting but if we came in next year we wouldn't have been the first AFL club. "We would've liked a bit more time, with the hassles with the AFL but all those things compounded our problems."

ERICSSON CUP

RESULTS & SCORERS

ROUND FIFTEEN

Wollongong City 1
Surjan (83)
Sydney United 4
Milicic (17, 24, 88)
Own Goal (68)
Crowd: 10,158

Brisbane Strikers 1
Battistin (71pen)
Adelaide City 3
Hassell (17), Brooks (78), OG(82)
Crowd: 4,167

Marconi Fairfield 1
Maloney (77)

Canberra Cosmos 0
Crowd: 4, 279

Melbourne Knights 0
Collingwood Warriors 1
Boutsianis (42)
Crowd: 7, 919

South Melbourne 2
Kelic (46), Coveny (89)
Gippsland Falcons 0
Crowd: 5,239

UTS Olympic 0
Perth Glory 2
OG (11), Despotovski (42)
Crowd: 7,124

West Adelaide 2
Hooker (59), Tsekinis (68)
Newcastle Breakers 1
OG (4)

ATTENDANCE FIGURES FOR ROUND 15
1995/96 - 29,04
1996/97 – 43,932

ROUND 16 FIXTURES

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS V BRISBANE STRIKERS
FRIDAY 7 FEBRUARY 1997 - 7.30PM
Newcastle Breakers 2/1, Draw 2/1, Brisbane Strikers 5/4

CANBERRA COSMOS V UTS OLYMPIC
SATURDAY 8 FEBRUARY 1997 – 7.00PM
Canberra Cosmos 2/1, Draw 2/1, UTS Olympic 5/4

GIPPSLAND FALCONS V MELBOURNE KNIGHTS
SATURDAY 8 FEBRUARY 1997 - 7.30PM
Gippsland Falcons 2/1, Draw 2/1, Melb Knights 5/4

COLLINGWOOD WARRIORS V MARCONI FAIRFIELD
SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY 1997 - 6.00PM
Collingwood 6/4, Draw 2/1, Marconi 6/4

PERTH GLORY V WEST ADELAIDE
SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY 1997 - 5.00PM
Perth Glory 4/5, Draw 9/4, West Adelaide 3/1

SYDNEY UNITED V SOUTH MELBOURNE
SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY 1997 6.30PM
Sydney United 5/4, Draw 9/4, South Melb 7/4

ADELAIDE CITY V WOLLONGONG CITY
SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY 1997 - 7.30PM
Adelaide City EV, Draw 2/1, Wollongong City 2/1

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Clayton Zane: Newcastle Breakers

Leading Goal Scorers

NAME	TEAM	GLS
David Zdrilic	Sydney United	13
Ante Milicic	Sydney United	12
Bobby Depostovksi	Perth Glory	10
Norman Tome	UTS Olympic	8
Frank Farina	Brisbane Strikers	7
Rod Brown	Brisbane Strikers	7
Jimmy Tsekenis	West Adelaide	7
Paul Strudwick	Perth Glory	7
Vas Kalageracos	Perth Glory	6

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney United	15	11	2	2	43	20	35
Brisbane Strikers	15	9	2	4	31	21	29
Perth Glory	15	8	2	5	33	23	26
South Melbourne	15	7	4	4	20	11	25
Adelaide City	15	6	6	3	20	13	24
Wollongong City	15	6	6	3	25	21	24
West Adelaide	15	7	1	7	22	27	22
Marconi Farifield	15	6	3	6	22	21	21
Melbourne Knights	15	4	4	7	18	19	16
UTS Olympic	15	4	4	7	19	28	16
Collingwood Warriors	15	3	7	5	14	26	16
Newcastle Breakers	16	2	8	6	24	29	14
Gippsland Falcons	15	3	4	8	15	28	13
Canberra Cosmos	16	1	5	10	15	34	8

SOUTH KOREA

NEW ZEALAND

AUSTRALIA

L-R Back: Alex Tobin (Capt), Milan Ivanovic, Matt Bingley, Mark Babic, Zeljko Kalac. L-R Front: Robbie Enes, Craig Foster, David Zdrilic, Paul Trimbole, Kris Trajanovski, Robbie Hooker.

NORWAY

L-R Back: Thomas Gill, Sigurd Rushfeldt, Erik Hoftun, Havard Flo, Stale Solbakken (Capt), Tore Pedersen. Front L-R: Dan Eggen, Tore Andre Flo, Erik Mykland, Bent Skammelsrud, Erik Bergdolmo.

WORLD RESULTS & TABLES

AFRICA
Nations Cup Qualifying

Group 1:

Zimbabwe		**0**	**Ghana**				**0**
Ghana	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Zimbabwe	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Angola	1	0	0	1	1	2	0

Next match:
Zimbabwe v Angola, February 24

Group 2:

Ivory Coast		**1**	**Benin**				**0**
Mali		**1**	**Algeria**				**0**
Mali	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Algeria	2	1	0	1	4	2	3
Ivory Coast	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
Benin	2	0	0	2	1	3	0

Next matches:
Benin v Algeria, February 24
Mali v Algeria, February 24

Group 3:

Senegal		**0**	**Egypt**				**0**
Senegal	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Egypt	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Morocco	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Ethiopia	1	0	0	1	1	2	0

Next matches:
Ethiopia v Egypt, February 23
Senegal v Morocco, February 23

Group 4:

Guinea		**1**	**Tunisia**				**0**
Guinea	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
Tunisia	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Ctrl African Rep	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Sierra Leone	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

Next matches:
Central African Rep v Tunisia, February 24
Guinea v Sierra Leone, February 24

Group 5:

Cameroon		**4**	**Namibia**				**0**
Kenya		**1**	**Gabon**				**0**
Cameroon	2	1	1	0	4	0	4
Kenya	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Namibia	2	1	0	1	1	4	3
Gabon	2	0	1	1	0	1	1

Next matches:
Kenya v Cameroon, February 23
Namibia v Gabon, February 23

Group 6:

Liberia		**1**	**Togo**				**2**
Tanzania		**1**	**Zaire**				**2**
Togo	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
Zaire	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Liberia	2	0	1	0	1	2	1
Tanzania	2	0	0	2	2	4	0

Next matches:
Tanzania v Liberia, February 23
Togo v Zaire, February 24

Group 7:

Malawi		**0**	**Zambia**				**2**
Mozambique		**3**	**Mauritius**				**0**
Zambia	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Malawi		**0**	**Zambia**				**2**
Zambia	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Mozambique	2	1	0	1	3	1	3
Malawi	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Mauritius	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

Next matches:
Malawi v Mozambique, February 23 Mauritius v Zambia, February 24

The top two teams in each group qualify for the finals in Burkina Faso in February next year along with the hosts and holders South Africa.

BELGIUM

Club Brugge	2	Genk	1
Mouscron	1	Cercle Brugge	1
Aalst	1	Ghent	0
Ekeren	3	Sint Truiden	1
Molenbeek	1	Standard Liege	1
Lokeren	0	Anderlecht	1
Lommel	1	Antwerp	0
Mechelen	2	Harelbeke	1
Charleroi	1	Lierse	1

Mouscron	21	12	7	2	38	18	43
Club Brugge	21	12	4	5	41	26	40
Lierse	21	10	9	2	34	20	39
Harelbeke	21	11	4	6	36	23	37
Anderlecht	20	9	8	3	31	14	35
Standard Liege	21	11	2	8	36	28	35
Antwerpen	21	11	2	8	34	31	35
Lommel	20	9	5	6	30	31	32
Molenbeek	21	7	5	9	23	28	26
Genk	21	6	8	7	25	27	26
Ghent	21	7	4	10	32	39	25
Lokeren	21	6	6	9	30	34	24
Charleroi	21	6	5	10	26	31	23
Mechelen	21	5	8	8	22	30	23
Ekeren	21	5	5	11	25	35	20
Aalst	21	4	8	9	26	37	20
Sint Truiden	21	4	6	11	28	43	18
Cercle Brugge	21	2	6	13	23	45	12

ENGLAND
Premier league

Aston Villa	1	Sunderland	0
Blackburn	2	West Ham	1
Derby	0	Liverpool	1
Everton	2	Nottingham Forest	0
Leeds	0	Arsenal	0
Manchester Utd	2	Southampton	1
Sheffield Wed	0	Coventry	0
Tottenham	1	Chelsea	2
Wimbledon	1	Middlesbrough	1

Man Utd	25	14	8	3	50	28	50
Liverpool	25	14	7	4	42	20	49
Arsenal	25	13	8	4	44	23	47
Newcastle	24	12	6	6	46	27	42
Chelsea	24	11	8	5	38	33	41
Wimbledon	23	11	6	6	36	28	39
Aston Villa	25	11	6	8	32	25	39
Sheff Wed	24	8	11	5	26	27	35
Everton	25	8	7	10	34	38	31
Tottenham	24	9	4	11	27	33	31
Leeds	25	8	6	11	21	27	30
Sunderland	25	7	8	10	23	32	29
Blackburn	24	6	9	9	26	25	27
Leicester	23	7	6	10	22	31	27
Coventry	25	6	9	10	23	33	27
Derby	24	5	10	9	22	30	25
Nottm Forest	25	5	8	12	23	40	23
West Ham	24	5	7	12	20	32	22
Southampton	23	5	5	13	32	41	20
Middlesbrough	24	5	7	12	30	44	19

Division 1

Bolton	2	Birmingham	1
Bradford	1	Huddersfield	1
Grimsby	2	Charlton	0
Norwich	1	Barnsley	1
Port Vale	2	West Bromwich	2
Portsmouth	1	Oldham	0
QPR	0	Crystal Palace	1
Southend	0	Ipswich	0
Swindon	2	Sheffield United	1
Tranmere	2	Reading	2
Wolverhampton	2	Stoke	0

Bolton	31	18	10	3	65	39	64
Wolverhampton	30	15	7	8	42	28	52
Barnsley	29	14	9	6	50	35	51
Sheff United	30	14	8	8	50	33	50
Norwich	30	13	7	10	41	42	46
Crystal Palace	29	11	10	8	53	32	43
Tranmere	30	12	7	11	42	39	43
Port Vale	31	10	13	8	38	35	43
Stoke	29	12	7	10	37	40	43
QPR	30	11	9	10	43	42	42
Portsmouth	31	12	6	13	35	37	42
Ipswich	30	10	11	9	41	39	41
Oxford United	29	11	7	11	40	34	40
Huddersfield	31	10	10	11	37	42	40
Swindon	30	11	5	14	42	40	38
Birmingham	27	9	10	8	30	27	37
West Brom	30	7	14	9	46	52	35
Charlton	29	10	5	14	30	40	35
Reading	30	8	10	12	37	46	34
Bradford	31	7	10	14	29	46	31
Man City	28	8	5	15	29	42	29
Southend	30	6	11	13	28	52	29
Oldham	28	6	10	12	30	35	28
Grimsby	29	6	9	14	35	53	27

Division 2

Bournemouth	0	Blackpool	0
Bristol Rovers	2	Shrewsbury	0
Crewe	1	Burnley	1
Millwall	0	Bristol City	2
Notts County	1	Luton	2
Peterborough	0	Walsall	1
Plymouth	0	Wycombe	0
Preston	0	Chesterfield	1
Stockport	1	Brentford	2
Watford	2	Rotherham	0
Wrexham	1	Gillingham	1
York	0	Bury	2

Division 3

Carlisle	2	Northampton	1
Darlington	5	Lincoln	2
Doncaster	1	Scunthorpe	1
Hartlepool	1	Scarborough	0
Hereford	3	Wigan	1
Hull	1	Chester	0
Leyton Orient	1	Exeter	1
Mansfield	1	Brighton	1
Rochdale	1	Barnet	1
Colchester	2	Torquay	0
Fulham	1	Cardiff	4
Swansea	3	Cambridge United	1

Division 2 Table

Brentford	29	15	10	4	47	28	55
Luton Town	27	15	6	6	45	27	51
Bristol City	29	13	8	8	47	30	47
Crewe	28	15	2	11	41	31	47
Burnley	30	13	6	11	44	34	45
Bury	26	12	9	5	39	26	45
Chesterfield	27	13	6	8	25	20	45
Stockport	27	12	8	7	38	30	44
Millwall	29	12	8	9	37	38	44
Wrexham	26	10	11	5	35	31	41
Walsall	27	11	6	10	32	30	39
Shrewsbury	30	9	9	12	39	47	36
Blackpool	28	8	11	9	32	30	35
Bournemouth	30	9	8	13	26	34	35
Bristol Rovers	29	8	10	11	29	31	34
Preston	29	9	6	14	29	35	33
Gillingham	29	8	8	13	31	39	32
Plymouth	29	7	11	11	31	42	32
York	28	8	6	14	28	44	30
Peterborough	28	6	11	11	39	46	29
Wycombe	28	7	6	15	26	41	27
Notts County	28	5	9	14	21	35	24
Rotherham	28	4	9	15	24	44	21

Division 3 Table

Fulham	30	18	5	7	53	28	59
Carlisle	28	16	8	4	43	26	56
Wigan	28	16	5	7	50	34	53
Swansea	31	15	6	10	40	32	51
Cambridge Utd	30	15	5	10	41	39	50
Northampton	30	13	7	10	49	32	46
Colchester	30	10	15	5	44	32	45
Cardiff	29	13	4	12	35	35	43
Lincoln	30	11	8	11	41	47	41
Scarborough	29	10	11	8	37	35	41
Torquay	29	12	4	13	31	33	40
Hull	30	9	13	8	28	32	40
Mansfield	29	9	12	8	31	28	39
Chester	28	10	9	9	28	31	39
Scunthorpe	28	11	5	12	43	43	38
Hartlepool	30	10	6	14	34	40	36
Barnet	29	8	12	9	27	27	36
Leyton Orient	30	9	9	12	27	29	36
Rochdale	27	8	10	9	31	33	34
Exeter	30	8	7	15	29	43	31
Darlington	29	8	6	15	41	53	30
Doncaster	30	8	5	17	33	48	29
Hereford	30	8	5	17	31	45	29
Brighton	30	5	7	18	29	51	20

FRANCE

Bastia	3	Strasbourg	1
Lyon	3	Monaco	3
Paris St Germain	1	Cannes	1
Lille	0	Bordeaux	0
Nice	0	Marseille	0
Rennes	1	Caen	1
Auxerre	1	Nancy	0
Metz	0	Nantes	1
Lens	2	Guingamp	1
Le Havre	0	Montpellier	0

Monaco	25	15	7	3	45	20	52
Paris St Germain	25	12	9	4	36	19	45
Bastia	25	13	6	6	36	26	45
Auxerre	25	11	8	6	32	19	41
Bordeaux	25	11	8	6	37	27	41
Strasbourg	25	13	1	11	32	33	40
Metz	25	10	9	6	28	22	39
Nantes	25	9	11	5	44	26	38
Marseille	25	8	10	7	25	22	34
Lyon	25	8	9	8	34	39	33
Guingamp	25	8	8	9	20	22	32
Rennes	25	9	5	11	30	36	32
Cannes	25	7	9	9	16	24	30
Lille	25	7	9	9	24	34	30
Lens	25	8	5	12	28	39	29
Le Havre	25	6	9	10	24	29	27
Montpellier	25	5	11	9	21	27	26
Caen	25	4	9	12	21	32	21
Nancy	25	4	7	14	21	34	19
Nice	25	4	6	15	20	44	18

ITALY
Serie A

BOLOGNA	6	VERONA	1
CAGLIARI	0	JUVENTUS	0
FIORENTINA		ATALANTA	P/P
MILAN	2	SAMPDORIA	3
PARMA	1	PIACENZA	0
PERUGIA	0	INTER MILAN	0
REGGIANA	1	NAPOLI	1
ROMA	2	VICENZA	0
UDINESE	2	LAZIO	3

Serie B

BRESCIA	2	BARI	0
CESENA	1	TORINO	1
COSENZA	1	C. SANGRO	1
CREMONESE	0	CHIEVO	0
EMPOLI	2	PADOVA	1
FOGGIA	2	SALERNITANA	0
LECCE	1	REGGINA	2
LUCCHESE	0	GENOA	3
PESCARA	2	PALERMO	1
VENEZIA	0	REVENNA	0

Serie A

Juventus	18	10	7	2	26	13	37
Sampdoria	19	10	5	4	40	25	35
Bologna	19	9	4	6	32	23	31
Vicenza	19	8	6	5	30	22	30
Inter Milan	19	7	9	3	26	21	30
Parma	19	8	6	5	19	16	30
Napoli	19	7	7	5	24	26	28
Roma	19	7	6	6	28	23	27
Atalanta	18	7	6	5	24	22	27
Fiorentina	18	6	8	4	27	20	26
Lazio	19	7	5	7	22	20	26
Milan	19	7	4	8	27	26	25
Udinese	19	6	5	8	27	29	23
Piacenza	19	4	8	7	16	24	20
Perugia	19	5	4	10	23	36	19
Cagliari	19	3	7	9	20	32	16
Verona	19	3	5	11	21	38	14
Reggiana	19	1	8	10	16	32	11

Serie B

Lecce	20	11	5	4	34	25	38
Torino	20	10	5	5	31	22	35
Pescara	20	9	7	4	29	18	34
Brescia	20	9	7	4	23	18	34
Empoli	20	8	6	6	22	21	30
Bari	20	6	11	3	27	18	29
Genoa	20	6	10	4	28	16	28
Ravenna	20	8	7	5	23	22	28
Foggia	20	7	6	7	21	24	27
Chievo	20	5	10	5	21	21	25
Lucchese	20	5	9	6	16	18	24
Reggina	20	5	8	7	20	23	23
Padova	20	5	8	7	22	27	23
Venezia	20	5	7	8	23	23	22
Cosenza	20	5	7	8	22	27	22
C Sangro	20	6	4	10	12	23	22
Salernitana	20	5	6	9	10	21	21
Palermo	20	3	11	6	20	25	21
Cremonese	20	4	7	9	12	19	19
Cesena	120	3	9	8	17	22	18

PORTUGAL

Boavista	1	Belenenses	1
Chaves	2	Maritimo	1
Uniao Leiria	1	Leca	1
Salgueiros	1	Rio Ave	3
Gil Vicente	1	Guimaraes	1
Estrela Amadora	2	Farense	1
Sporting	4	Espinho	0
Braga	1	Benfica	1
Setubal	1	Porto	3

Porto	18	16	2	0	44	8	50
Sporting	18	11	4	3	29	10	37
Benfica	18	10	4	4	32	12	34
Estrela Amadora	18	8	5	5	23	17	29
Chaves	18	7	6	5	20	22	27
Braga	18	7	6	5	22	27	27
Espinho	18	8	3	7	19	24	27
Setubal	18	6	7	5	23	22	25
Guimaraes	18	7	4	7	25	24	25
Salgueiros	18	5	7	6	23	27	22
Farense	18	5	6	7	15	18	21
Belenenses	18	5	6	7	23	32	21
Leca	18	5	5	8	20	23	20
Boavista	18	4	8	6	25	25	20
Maritimo	18	5	5	8	20	28	20
Uniao Leiria	18	4	4	10	13	27	16
Gil Vicente	18	2	4	12	17	34	10
Rio Ave	18	2	4	12	18	31	10

SPAIN

Barcelona	2	Oviedo	2
Compostela	1	Tenerife	1
Logrones	1	Zaragoza	2
Sevilla	2	Real Sociedad	3
Valencia	1	Racing Santander	1
Sporting Gijon	4	Espanyol	3
Valladolid	4	Rayo Vallecano	0
Athletic Bilbao	0	Real Betis	3
Celta Vigo	1	Atletico Madrid	1

Real Madrid	21	14	7	0	43	14	49
Barcelona	22	14	5	3	62	28	47
Real Betis	21	12	6	3	43	20	42
Real Sociedad	22	12	4	6	33	25	40
Deportivo Coruna	21	10	9	2	28	13	39
Atletico Madrid	21	10	6	5	40	28	36
Valladolid	22	9	6	7	29	25	33
Athletic Bilbao	22	8	8	6	38	31	32
Racing Santander	22	7	10	5	23	22	31
Tenerife	21	8	6	7	35	23	30
Valencia	22	8	5	9	30	29	29
Oviedo	22	7	6	9	28	29	27
Sporting Gijon	21	6	7	8	23	29	25
Celta Vigo	22	6	7	9	22	29	25
Compostela	22	6	6	10	21	38	24
Rayo Vallecano	21	6	5	10	23	32	23
Espanyol	22	6	5	11	23	33	23
Logrones	22	6	3	13	17	46	21
Sevilla	21	5	3	13	17	31	18
Zaragoza	22	3	9	10	23	38	18
Hercules	21	5	3	13	19	40	18

DENNIS BERGKAMP

Lazaridis... learning from others

in interview with Steve Butler at Chadwell Heath Essex late last year

Australian soccer received a huge boost last year with the announcement that El Tel would take on the National coaching job. Venables' task is qualification for the 1998 World Cup to which he attaches great importance. Venables has over 100 Australian players in Europe from which to choose.

One of those players is Stan Lazaridis, having a return to the kind of form that prompted West Ham to sign him over a year ago. Lazaridis, the 24 year old West Ham winger, has overcome an injury which could have ended his fledgling career to be one of Harry Redknapp's and Australia's brightest stars. I caught up with Stan on a very cold November morning at West Ham's Chadwell Heath training ground.

SB: Hi Stan. What is your reaction to Terry Venables being appointed new Aussie team coach?

SL: I think it was a surprise, judging from the Australian point of view. We did not think a coach of Venables calibre would have got the job but it is very pleasing that he accepted the position. It can only be a step in the right direction for Aussie football.

SB: Do you think Venables will raise the profile of the code?

SL: Definitely, his credentials speak for themselves, his role with England during Euro '96 was superb plus success with Barcelona and Spurs, yes he can lift our profile.

SB: Has Terry contacted you since his appointment?;

SL: No, he's probably been busy with the media, we certainly have been. We really didn't think we could attract that calibre of coach and are very surprised that he's taking over the national team.

SB: Since your arrival in the U.K., what have been your feelings on the English game?

SL: When I first got over here I found it very hard but I'm really enjoying it now. It takes time to settle in but I think I've acclimatised, got used to the pace and things are going well.

SB: When West Ham invited you to England for a trial on their centenary tour of Australia how did you react?

SL: As you said initially it was a trial with no guarantee of a contract but just to be asked for a trial was great and things went well. They offered me a contract and it's great. I was in the right place at the right time otherwise I probably wouldn't have got here.

SB: Coming from Australia, where you were playing in front of small crowds was it unnerving playing in front of big crowds so close to the pitch?

SL: Yes initially it was a nervous kind of feeling but you get used to it and then block it out.

SB: Your first season ended disastrously with a broken leg against Grimsby, did you feel that perhaps after that setback maybe English football wasn't for you?

SL: No. I felt that I hadn't really given it a good go so I couldn't say that, no, but at the time everything that could go bad did. Things couldn't have been worse. I had two options, I could go back home to resume playing or give it another crack over here. I didn't think West Ham had seen the best of me so I thought I'd give it another crack and if after that I didn't impress, I'd put my hand up and say I'm not good enough for the premiership.

Stan Lazaridis: In action for the Irons against Spurs at White Hart Lane.

SB: What kind of reaction do you get from the Hammers fans?

SL: I expected a few comments from the crowd at the time but the thing is they have kept faith in me and hopefully I can return that faith by doing the business on the field.

SB: What can West Ham achieve this season?

SL: I think a good Cup run is definitely on.

SB: How does it feel being part of the most ethnically diverse team in the premiership?

SL: I think we've taken a lot of stick this season being called the Foreign Legion but you've got to look at Harry's point of view. He has a set budget and I think the English players are way overpriced anyway so I think Harry feels that if he can pick up a player he will. Just look at the quality of Slaven Bilic and Hugo Profirio, they've been fantastic.

SB: Are there any communication problems with so many accents flying around on the pitch?

SL: Well there are but we're all on the same wavelength and they let their feet do the talking.

SB: Your form has been excellent recently do you put that down to mental preparation or harder work in training?

SL: It's a combination of both really the training and the feedback from the coaching staff, trying to correct my errors every week. I know Slaven Bilic and Julian Dicks are always on my back trying to improve my game which is great because I learn from those guys and I'll be the first to admit I'm not an error free player. I've just got so much more to learn.

SB: You mentioned earlier that West Ham are a player short of being a very good side?

SL: Well probably someone who's going to score thirty goals plus a year. We've got big Ian Dowie who does a great job for the team and is a great target man but I think we need someone who's going to get those goals.

SB: The one all draw with Newcastle at St James Park must have been pleasing to Harry Redknapp.

SL: Not many teams are going up to Newcastle and get a point. We were about eight minutes from nicking it, but yes Harry was well peased with that. If you'd said to me you'll have to settle for a point we'd have taken it for sure.

SB: West Ham have always played attractive football, how does that style fit into your game?

SL: It certainly fits. Harry's always encouraged me to pass the ball and that the people who come and pay their money are entertained. I think it's important that you're a pleasing side to watch but in saying that you've got to get the result as well. The style of game I like is very much suited to the way we play here.

SB: Just going back to the Australian side of things for a minute, how disruptive is it for Australia and West Ham travelling back home to represent your country?

SL: It's a catch twenty two situation. Fortunately I've not been in the position where I've had to make a decision between club or country. If you do leave the club for an international for Australia you can't just go for one or two days it has to be at least week in which time to be out of the first team. If you refuse to play for your country and face a ban it's a tough decision fortunately it's up to Harry and Soccer Australia.

SB: Do you still get a thrill playing for your country?

SL: Of course, playing for Australia is the main reason why I'm over here, it's every player's dream to play for their country at the highest level possible.

SB: How much do you think the ex-Australian coach Eddie Thomson did for the game over there?

SL: He brought the game a long way. He made an average side into a good side and people started taking notice of Australian players. Many criticised him for not getting us into the World Cup but the run we had to get us there was huge playing the likes of Argentina which was daunting. He helped me tremendously I know that for a fact.

SB: Because Terry Venables will be in Australia for a few months of the year, do you think the Aussie football public will feel slightly short changed?

SL: No I don't think so. What you have to realise is that most players that will figure in Terry' s World Cup campaign are primarily overseas. He'll keep an eye on things in Europe and then liase with his assistant coach in Australia who will assemble and look after the home based players.

SB: How realistic is it for Australia to qualify for the World Cup in 1998.

SL: I think it is very realistic, we have an easier run than previousyears. It will be tough but we should win the Oceania Group and then play the fourth best team in the Asian Confederation. Mind you I've played against teams like South Korea and didn't touch the ball for twenty minutes so it will be tough.

SB: Two years ago if someone had said you'd be playing top flight premiership football what would have your reaction have been?

SL: My intentions were always to be looking at going abroad but I never would have thought that I'd be playing in the premiership and doing well, so yes if you have told me that's what's going to happen I would have said, yeah right, but basically if the opportunity's there, I'm going to take it

SB: It's a far cry from playing with West Adelaide?

SL: Yes it is. It's a big step. People ask me when I go back home what's it like but you can't compare it, you can't explain what it is like. It's a passion, a religion over here, since I've been here I've loved the game even more so than what I did in the past.

SB: Some foreign players find it difficult settling in especially off the park; how have you coped?

SL: Well I was unsettled in the first year. I was very unhappy in the first six months where I thought this is really not for me. I was finding it hard, the weather was terrible. I know you shouldn't use the weather as an excuse but when you come from Australia it is. Once I'd got those problems out of the way I really loved it.It took time but I'm loving it so much so that I'm thinking of staying here on a more permanent basis; even buying a house.

SB: Is there much Australian versus English rivalry in the dressing room?

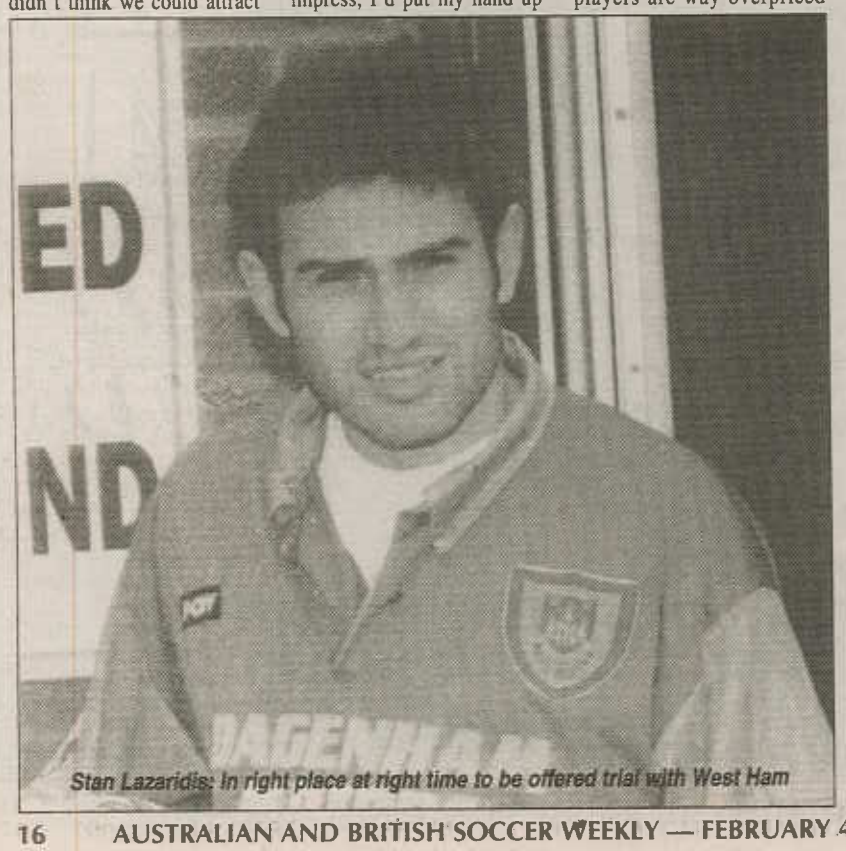
SL: Yeah sure. You're always getting the line, "put another shrimp on the barbi" and I think they think that when I go back to Australia I get around on the back of a kangaroo. But it is not that bad and I am from an English speaking country so it's just a bit of fun.

SB: Do you have any nicknames or pre-match superstitions?

SL: Just Lazer or Skippy, but no superstitions. I just pay attention to my diet and that's about it.

SB: What do you miss about Australia?

SL: Well today definitely the weather, but seriously my family. I've come over here and I'm really still a kid when you think about it and I'm very close to my family so I find that a bit hard but you start making friends, so that eases it. Sometimes the lifestyle, but I'd never trade what I have now for anything.



Stan Lazaridis: In right place at right time to be offered trial with West Ham

RISING STARS

NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE RESULTS 1996/97

ROUND 15

NORTHERN DIVISION

WOLLONGONG CITY 3 Whiddet 22, 60, Luff 55		**SYDNEY UNITED** 3 Perosh 8, Saric 68, Unknown	
QAS	0	**AIS**	0
SYDNEY UNITED COLTS 4 Pfiefer 6, James 40, Cahill 41, Susic 88		**MARCONI ACADEMY** 1 Angelucci 60	
UTS OLYMPIC COLTS 1 Angelovski 38		**NEWCASTLE BREAKERS** 5 Hodgson 12, 67, Turner 79 Mansley 62, 78	
MARCONI FAIRFIELD v **ACT AS** (to be played 19 February)			

TABLE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney United	13	7	4	2	27	12	25
Newcastle Breakers	12	8	0	4	30	15	24
UTS Olympic	12	8	0	4	30	15	24
Wollongong City	13	6	4	3	28	21	22
AIS	11	6	3	2	20	9	21
NSWIS	12	7	0	5	22	21	21
Marconi Fairfield	10	5	1	3	10	9	19
Sydney United Colts	12	5	0	7	16	19	15
QAS	13	4	2	7	24	21	14
ACT AS	12	3	1	8	11	26	10
Marconi Fairfield Colts	13	3	1	9	14	31	10
UTS Olympic Colts	13	2	0	11	10	41	6

SUNSMART NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

ROUND 14

WOODVILLE CITY 4 Calabria, Mechis, Primaro		**BLUE EAGLES** 1 Tsalavoutas	
MODBURY 5 Kelly, Blefari, Weber Dllorenzo		**CUMBERLAND UTD** 1 Paice	
ADELAIDE CITY 11 Saraceno (3), Reynolds (3), McGregor (2), Cartwright Iandorio, Thompson		**PARA HILLS**	0
WEST ADELAIDE 1 Correia		**SASI**	0

TABLE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Adelaide City	14	12	2	0	55	9	38
West Adelaide	14	10	1	3	50	12	31
Modbury	14	10	1	3	29	15	31
Woodville City	14	7	1	6	23	15	22
SASI	14	6	2	6	31	23	20
Cumberland Utd	14	3	1	10	27	44	10
Adelaide Blue Eagles	14	3	1	10	19	50	10
Para Hills	14	0	1	13	8	83	1

FALCONS LEAP OVER SOUTH

By ROY HAY

Gippsland Falcons inflicted a three-two defeat on South Melbourne at Bob Jane Stadium in Round 15 when the National Youth League resumed after its two week break. Esala Masi scored twice for the Falcons and Billy Mitroulas got its third goal. George Tzirtis pulled one back for the Blues in the first half, and though George Goutzioulis scored another late in the second, the home team could not find an equaliser.

In a high standard game at Knights' Stadium the Knights eventually overcame Collingwood Warriors by three goals to one. It was ding-dong stuff in the first half with no goals but two shots by Damian Vojtek caused keeper Dean Anastasiadis trouble. He repelled the first with a reaction save, but the second from 30 metres dipped over his hands and bounced down and out from the cross-bar.

Peter Di Iorio hit the top of the bar for the Warriors also in that period./ In fifty-nine minutes the breakthrough finally came when Vojtek put Branko Bacak clear and he thumped home a shot from the left side. The Warriors replied instantly with George Bakatselos putting over a cross from the left which the Knights' defence could only deflect to di Iorio who scored with a stooping header. The Warriors brought on Peter Groidis as their final substitute, but then Leigh Tsoumerkas went down with a back injury and the defence was disrupted. It seemed that the depleted Warriors would hold on for a draw, as there were only three minutes left when Bacak skinned his man on the half-way line and sprinted towards goal, fienting past one player then another and finishing with a brilliant shot inside the near post. It had to be a good one to beat anastasiadis and it was. In the last minute Bacak completed his hat-trick after Mario Medugorac contributed to the opening.

Green Gully ran up eleven goals to one by the luckless Springvale City at Green Gully Reserve. David Maglovski started the avalanche in four minutes and went on to score a hat-trick as did Marco Denni including a penalty kick. Keeper Jason Kok also scored from the spot and the other goals came from John Kindtner, Dean Stafrace. Murray Makris and an own goal. Joe Adones scored the consolation goal for Springvale after 83 minutes.

Heidelberg United downed the Melbourne Knights Colts by four goals to two at Olympic village. Anthony Ouliaris and Elias Kyrakou put the Bergers ahead in 17 and 26 minutes, but Ivan Razov scored his twelfth goal of the season to get the colts back into the game. When Ivan Kolceg equalised in 70 minutes it seemed that a recovery very had been completed but late goals by Bil Georgakopoulos and M Gavrilidis saw the Bergers home.

Bentleigh Greens opened the round on Saturday with a three-nil win over Sunshibne Georgies. Nick Rossios,. Mark Maisano and Con Papettas were the goalscorers in a match which the Greens dominated. Georgies have lost several players to the senior side and will take a week or two to regrouop.

ROUND 15

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Saturday 1 February, 1997

BENTLEIGH GREENS 3 Russios, Maisatio, Papettas		**SUNSHINE GEORGIES**	0

Sunday 2 February, 1997

HEIDELBERG UNITED 4 Ouliaris, Kviakou, Georgakopoulos, Gavrilidis		**MELBOURNE KNIGHTS COLTS** 2 Raz, Kolces	
VIS v **ALTONA MAGIC** (Match not Played)			
GREEN GULLY 11 Maglovski (3), Denni (3) Makris, Stafrace, Kindtner Kok,O.G.		**SPRINGVALE CITY** 1 Adones	
SOUTH MELBOURNE 2 Tzirtio, Goutzioulio		**GIPPSLAND FALCONS** 3 Maoi (2), Mitroulas	
THOMASTOWN ZEBRAS **BOX HILL** (Match not Played)			

TABLE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
VIS	14	11	2	1	52	9	35
Gippsland Falcons	15	10	3	2	51	20	33
Melbourne Knights	14	10	2	2	56	22	32
South Melbourne	15	10	0	5	63	25	30
Collingwood Warriors	14	7	4	3	38	24	25
Green Gully	15	7	3	5	36	27	24
Melbourne Knights Colts	15	7	1	7	28	35	22
Bentleigh Greens	11	6	2	6	25	27	20
Sunshine Georgies	14	6	2	6	19	27	20
Altona Magic	14	4	2	6	18	34	14
Springvale City Reds	14	2	3	10	20	65	9
Heidelberg United	14	2	2	10	25	42	8
Thomastown Zebras	11	1	1	9	14	36	4
Box Hill	12	0	3	9	12	64	3

VIAREGGIO TOURNAMENT

By JOHN ECONOMOS

MARCONI HOLD UDINESE TO A DRAW

Marconi's Youth team, last Tuesday, battled out a well-earned 0-0 draw at the Comunale Stadio in Cenaia against Udinese, on a very poor surface that had the Marconi lads struggling to sustain firm traction.

To say the pitch was poor would flatter. Little grass, a very clay-base resembling plasticine, made attractive play most difficult in Round 1 of Group 2 in the prestigious, annual 'Viareggio tournament'.

The 'black and whites' from Udinese were caught out on many occasions by Marconi's fighting qualities, especially in set plays. In fact Udinese could consider themselves most fortunate that they were not trailing by at least two goals at the break.

A Vaughan Hunter free kick in the 15th minute slung in from the right was flicked just wide of the left post by lanky striker Luke Tomich. On the half hour mark another Marconi free kick by robust midfielder Mark Robertson was headed again perilously wide of the post by Tomich and a minute later, from a corner on the right, Tomich went again just wide of the post.

Udinese, despite possessing better technique, failed to breach Marconi's defence of Michael Galluzzo, Buddy Farah, Daniel Ucchino and Vaughan Hunter, whilst the Marconi goalkeeper Les Pogliacomi, who had just got out of bed after suffering a sudden viral infection, was never called upon to soil his gloves.

UDINESE: Mattia, Orefice, Michelutti, Pittiliro, Cornelio, De Degari, Tardivo, Ripaldi (Citossi 59), De Falcò, Temporini, Motta.

MARCONI: Pogliacomi, Galluzzo, Farah (Krljar), Kladis, Ucchino, Hunter, Care, Roberts, Racker (Bruni 70), Bosevski, Tomich (Cuylenberg 83).

Marconi's captain and deep-lying central midfielder Michael Kladis showed great composure as 'screener', giving Marconi a very stable keel.

Udinese relied heavily on their guidance from their professional first Grade squad member and sweeper, Pittiliro who repeatedly sprung Udinese's off-side trap that caught out Marconi front runner Nick Bosevski.

The second half developed into a tougher struggle as both sides repeatedly squandered possession with neither custodian being called upon to extend themselves.

Marconi coach Lee Sterrey released three subs into action late in the second half, determined to come away from the first match with something. Diminuitive left midfielder, Joey Bruni, came on with 20 minutes to go and despite the slippery surface exploded with some deadly crosses and raids down the flank.

Les Pogliacomi: Rose from his sickness but had little to do against Udinese.

Cramps set in to stopper Buddy Farah, forcing Sterrey to bring on Peter Krljar, whilst striker Tomich was replaced with seven minutes left by Mauro Cuylenberg.

In the other match of Group 2, Torino sunk Manchester United 2-0, Marconi plays Torino on Thursday and United on Saturday.

Torino Stops Marconi 2-0

A well drilled and extremely well organised TORINO, hot favourites for the Viareggio Tournament, ultimately proved to have too much class for a courageous Marconi and won 2-0 last Thursday at the Stadio Comunale, Montecantini.

In vast contrast to the playing surface encountered when Marconi played Udinese, this surface was magnificent, well grassed and perfectly flat.

The two first half goals sent Marconi hurtling to defeat despite the fact the gallant Sydney side came back into the match in the second session.

Torino served early warning they were a team to be respected and Marconi in the the 6th minute escaped danger when a 20 metre thundering free kick by left back Malago rocked the left post.

However in the 15th minute Torino drew first blood from an excellently rehearsed free kick from the right side of the box. Marconi's pacey left midfielder Joey Bruni fouled a Torino player for referee Aldo Tonin to award a free kick.

Marconi was caught well out as the free kick was floated across the goalmouth to the far post where Torino's star right back and skipper, Longo, positioned totally unguarded, headed back across the goalmouth for left back Malago to crash into the target from very close range.

TORINO: Paelotti, Longo, Corallo, Barberro, Malaga, Alessi (Pelissier 56), Di Donato, Lo Gatto (Grauso 87), Andreotti, Tiribocchi (Bruno 75), Bernardo.

MARCONI: Pogliacomi (De Brincat 70) Krljar, Farah, Ucchino, Hunter, Care (Tomich 16), Robertson, Kladis, Bruni, Bosevski (Cicek 65) Cuylenberg.
Scorers: Malago (15) and Tiribocchi (40)
Yellow Cards: Marconi: Care 8, Farah 60
Referee: Tonin

The 38th minute saw Marconi's first assault at the Italians goal when the powerful striker Nick Bosevski blasted over from just 12 metres a rising drive that sailed over the horizontal. With five minutes left before the break with Marconi well under seige, Torino doubled their lead.

Striker Tiribocchi with super technique, dribbled through Marconi's defence, pulled out keeper Pogliacomi before driving into the far corner.

Torino's very classy and pacey left midfielder Bernardi was in fact a striker in disguise.Whenever in possession Bernardi repeatedly screamed diagonally inside and raced for the box or laid off for a better positioned colleague.

Six minutes after the break Marconi at last threatened. Powerful striker Bosevski latched onto a Mark Robertson through ball and broke through Torino's defence. But when he got himself in a one on one situation with Torino keeper Paeletti, Bosevski's final shot was saved by the diving custodian. Marconi pressed hard for the first 25 minutes of the second half and had Torino on the back foot, however constant loss of possession denied the Sydney side any rewards.;

Again one of Marconi's best performers was captain and 'screener' Michael Kladis, who later stated to ABSW: "Torino was just what we expected them to be. Technical, lovely touches, brilliance etc. We got what we expected. Slack marking let us down badly."

ABSW approached Torino's softly, but very well spoken , coach Signor Della Casa who evaluated: "It was an intense game with physical but not malicious, tackling. Torino was well organised for this match, especially tactically but I was impressed by Marconi, particularly libero Ucchino and the striker Bosevski."

Best performers for Marconi were Kladis, Bosevski,Robertson, Cuylenberg plus stopper Farah.

MARCONI WELL ON TOP OF UNITED!

MARCONI 1
MANCHESTER UTD 1

Marconi's Youth team were denied by just 60 seconds from creating Australian Soccer History when they drew 1-1 with Manchester United last Saturday at Scandicci, Florence in Italy in the last round of Group 2 in the 'Viareggio' 32 team tournament.

The young Australian side completely dominated the English team throughout the match and led 1-0 with just 60 seconds left on the clock, when United finally equalised.

A United free kick some 35 metres out was headed square to the right of the box from where a flat cross fired back into the back post left the completely unmarked striker David Brown with the extremely simple task of tapping into the net. Had Marconi been able to contain United for just another minute, they would have been the very first Australian soccer team to have defeated an English side.

Marconi justifiably drew first blood in the 68th minute when robust midfielder Mark Robertson gained possession in midfield and raced to the left of the box. Quite unexpectedly as the English cover defence hesitated expecting some type of cross infield, Robertson unleashed an exploding vicious left-footed low drive that bulged the net in the bottom left corner. In reality this was a match Marconi should have wrapped up by at least three three goals. They would then have gone to the quarter finals. Surprisingly Manchester United who attacked Marconi with a 3-5-2 formation looked almost totally unco-ordinated even though England squad member Phil Neville was in the line-up in the 'screener's' role.

MARCONI: Pogliacomi, Galluzzo, Farah, Ucchino, Hunter, Cuylenberg, Kladis (Bruni 88), Robertson, Unico, Daniele (Racker 75), Bosevski.

MANCHESTER UNITED: Culmin, Duncan, Wallwork, Curtis, Brishtwell (Malvern 73), Wilson (Brebner 73), P.Neville, Ford, Hilton, (Norman 63), Naylor, Brown.
Scorers: Marconi: Robertson (68)
United: Brown (89)

An almost ruthless Marconi started out confidently as the midfield quartet of Mauro Cuylenberg, Robertson, Michael Kladis and Michael Cunico arrogantly ripped into their more illustrous opponents.

But United hit back in the 31st minute when their best player and left-midfielder David Hilton burst through down the left and got into the Marconi box, however, Marconi's lanky custodian Les Pogliacom was off his line in a flash, and diving low, stole the ball off Hilton's shooting boot.

Nick Bosevski: Chosen as Man of the Match against Manchester United.

Daniel Ucchino: Ever present in Italy. Seen here receiving his U/21 Player of the Year award from Mr Scundi.

Marconi came again and again and just five minutes from the break should have opened the 'innings'. A great defence-splitting throught ball by flank midfielder Cuylenberg saw striker Andrew Daniele race on to it. With almost the target begging from a slight angle, Daniele blasted just wide of the near post.

Within 10 minutes after the break, Marconi squandered two more golden chances through striker Nick Bosevski and midfielder Cuylenberg with whom United experienced difficulty in holding down their left flank.

With confidence rapidly growing, some reckless and selfish play crept into Marconi's game which denied them additional goals when better positioned players were starved of passes.

A very concerned Manchester Youth team manager Jimmy Ryan (who actually toured Australia in 1967 with Bobby Charlton'g great Manchester United team), reflected :"I was not pleased at all by my lads, especially with some of the younger players in the second session. Marconi was hard to break down and played with great enthusiasm. They did really well."

But Marconi's Youth team coach, Lee Sterrey, was far from happy as he had just witnessed an almost definite victory over the great United, slip away from their grasp in the last few seconds. Sterrey barely managed to state : "Sure it was a good performance, but we should have won it by at least three goals. I feel proud for the boys and me being associated with Marconi's Youth squad. Marconi actually took the whole match to United as we just dominated throughout."

Good performances put in for Marconi came from right midfielder Cuylenberg, right defender Michael Galluzzo, central marker Buddy Farah and goalscorer Robertson. Man of the Match selected by the Italian media was Marconi's ball playing striker Nick Bosevski.

WOMEN'S WRITES

BY JANENE MAR

Dual refereeing Honours

(continued from last week)

The Class two referee (Tammy Peacock) officiates the men's second division Brisbane League, as well as the lines for first division and the National Youth League. She hopes to sit her Class One examination by the end of this year, and undergo her field tests early in 1998.

Before the call-up to referee at last year's Australian Championships, Peacock had done only two women's matches, but says she loved the experience in Darwin.

With the opportunities before her, and a FIFA Badge at such a young age the timing is perfect for Peacock, although she admits she knows little about the international women's game. "I think I slipped in at just the right time. I'm really happy, but a wee bit worried. I've got three years to hang on to it (before the Olympics) but there's no way I'm giving it up. I'm hoping for the World Cup too, but refereeing guys all the time, I don't know much about women's soccer."

Peacock had been playing for ten years before hearing from referees development officer Murray Jesson about an upcoming course. "He said you get to learn all the Laws of the Game and what you can get away with! And then when he said you get paid, another girl and I went along and we passed."

Upon reaching the level of refereeing second division matches, Peacock found it difficult to carry on both, and gave playing away to really concentrate on refereeing.

"Luckily it paid off, " she said. "Now I've just got to keep the weight off." Peacock trains two nights a week with the referees, and generally has two games on Saturdays and Sundays, and maybe one during the week. She is employed in the building industry in administration.

But the time involved is not a worry for her. Refereeing has brought more than just sporting enjoyment for Peacock, having met her boyfried there as well. "He comes to training with me, and they try to give us games together - we're lucky that way. Some of the other guys are always saying they're in trouble because they're never home, so it's good for us. So yes, romance is a good selling point. There's so many single ones, maybe because they're never home!".

Of the 130 referees in her association, only four are females. "There were only two when we started, so it's getting there but still a big shortage. The only way is to go around the clubs."

Peacock went straight into refereeing males and has experienced no difficulties, and in fact has always felt at ease in that domain. "It's a funny thing - the guys do respect you more than when a man goes out there. And the association has been really good to me. They've always helped me out, if there were any problems, they'd take me aside and discuss what happened."

"My problem is I always think I could've stopped something happening if I'd taken certain action. But I think that's just a woman's thing - thinking you could have solved something before it happens - but of course you can't."

"All referees get abused, male or female," she added. "You've just got to control it with the cards."

Not that such things would turn Peacock off the challenge of being a black and white. "I just really like to get running out there on the weekend, and I come home satisfied having controlled 22 people on that park. That's what gets me going, and wanting to do the next game."

USA ON SHOW IN BATHURST

The upcoming tour of the USA team to Australia will include an international match in Bathurst, two hours west of Sydney, in what is a fantastic coup for the country town.

AWSA last week agreed on Bathurst as a host venue after checking the suitability of the Carrington Park facility. A typical country sports ground, Carrington is reportedly a flat, well-grassed pitch with a good grandstand and a venue capacity of 11,000 spectators.

Bathurst will host the second of the three game series on March 2, with a good crowd guaranteed to be on hand That first weekend of the month has long been scheduled for the Mitchell Cup/Mitchell Shield tournament, an annual pre-season event hosted in Bathurst which caters for both State League and local level club sides. Now the combination of bringing the high profile international fixture to the largest gathering of players from NSW, NNSW and ACT has all the ingredients for an unforgettable weekend of soccer.

The finals of the Cup and Shield wil be played as curtain raisers to the contest between Australia and the Olympic Champions.

Canberra's Bruce Stadium is the venue for the third meeting on Wednesday March 5, with Sydney or Melbourne in contention for the series opener.

DIARY DATES

7-9 FEBRUARY
ANSETT AUSTRALIA SUMMER SERIES
Round 3 — South Conference
BULLEEN, MELBOURNE

14-16 FEBRUARY
ANSETT AUSTRALIA SUMMER SERIES
Round 4 — North Conference
BREAKERS STADIUM, NEWCASTLE

21-23 FEBRUARY
ANSETT AUSTRALIA SUMMER SERIES
Round 5 — South Conference
HINDMARSH STADIUM, ADELAIDE

FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY (tbc)
AUSTRALIA VERSUS USA
Sydney or Melbourne

1-2 MARCH
MITCHELL CUP & MITCHELL SHIELD
PROCTOR PARK, BATHURST

SUNDAY MARCH 2
AUSTRALIA VERSUS USA
CARRINGTON PARK, BATHURST

WEDNESDAY MARCH 5
AUSTRALIA VERSUS USA
BRUCE STADIUM, CANBERRA

7-9 MARCH
ANSETT AUSTRALIA SUMMER SERIES
Round 6 - North Conference
PERRY PARK, BRISBANE

20-23 MARCH
ANSETT AUSTRALIA SUMMER SERIES
Playoffs/Finals
AIS, CANBERRA

NATIONAL LEAGUE — BACK TO BUSINESS

The Ansett Australia Summer Series breaks out of holiday mode this Friday and back into some real business.

After some classic battles fought out in December's opening two rounds, anticipation is high for some entertaining games over the coming weeks.

Not forgetting there remains just a couple of rounds for players to stake their last minute selection claims, with the Australian Team to take on the USA soon to be announced.

Melbourne is the host for the resumption of the inaugural national league, with the South Conference teams to do battle at Bulleen Soccer Club. A recently refurbished venue, Bulleen was the site for the National Youth Camp a year ago, and was last month used by Terry Venables and his Socceroos as a training base.

SASI and NSWIS hold the early lead in their respective pools with maximum points. But the four remaining teams also displayed some solid football and each are capable of turning the tables. By no means is the end result a foregone conclusion at this early stage.

SASI Coach Kevin McCormack, although delighted with his team's first up performance, is not about to get carried away.

"We're keeping things very quiet, " he said. "I'm expecting it to be even tougher than last time, People know what we're about now - we're no longer a surprise to them."

And a lot can transpire over a seven week break. Several players sidelined by injury now return to the fold. Also back on board from their European experience are the Australian Schoolgirls.

Two big name signings come in the shape of Sunni Hughes and Cheryl Salisbury, back home after their second season in Japan's professional L-league.

Hughes is a welcome boost to the ACTAS attack, especially after the anticipated return of the injured Karly Pumpa has far from eventuated. Salisbury will slot into the Victorian ITC midfield alongside Aussie teammate Lizzy Claydon.

"Cheryl will be handy for us, with her experience as an international and full-time player, " said Coach Jeff Olver.

"Contrary to the score of the SA game, most were reasonably close games (in December), and I foresee that being similar again, " he added.

Although without a point from their home round ACTAS Coach Chris Tanzey is far from panicking.

"If we play as well as we did before, I'll be happy. Hopefully we'll get a few lucky breaks this time. We played well, and I think the others realise that."

Ansett Australia Summer Series

Southern Coference - Round 2

At **Bulleen Soccer Club**
Bulleen Road, Bulleen.

Friday 7 Feb.- 7.00 pm
VIC ITC v ACTAS

Sat. 8 Feb. 3.00pm
SASI v ACTAS

Sun. 9 Feb. 3.00pm
VIC ITC v SASI

Table — Southern Conference

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SASI	2	0	0	8	2	6
VIC ITC	1	0	1	4	7	3
ACTAS	0	0	2	2	5	0

International Womensport Festival

This year's National Clubs Challenge is set to be expanded to become a feature of the inaugural International Womensport Festival in Sydney this Easter. The Festival is the world's first multi-sport celebration of women's participation in sport, and will hightlight elite athletes as well as broad-based participation.

The first of what will become an annual event, the Festival is the brainchild of Womensport Australia (the peak non-government national body representing the interests of women in sport) in collaboration with Present Australia, international event organisers.

Australia's premier club teams will still form an integral part of the event, but the Challenge will now also be opened to a wider range of clubs and district associations, with a proposed maximum of twelve teams for 1997.

Overseas teams are being encouraged to participate, with interest so far strongest from Korea, Taiwan and Japan.

Teams will be required to pay an entry fee of $300 but will be competing for prizemoney of $1000 (winners) and $500 (runners-up) in the premier division.

Former AWSA chief Heather Reid heads the team at Womensport Australia, and believes soccer has the potential to be the largest team event on the Festival program.

"There is no regular international club tournament for women in this region and clearly we need to develop new international opportunities now that there is a women's Olympic competition."

Overseas participation may be low this year due to short lead times, but Reid is confident future Festivals will attract interest from North America, Europe and South Africa as well as Asia and Oceania.

"The Festival is an exciting and innovative concept and AWSA is pleased to be involved," said AWSA's Warren Fisher.

"Held in Sydney, the host city for the 2000 Olympic Games, it will provide lasting memories and the opportunity for the players to not only showcase their skills, but to meet other participants from around the country."

Interested clubs are invited to contact the Festival organisers for preliminary registration details by phone (02) 9268 2199 or fax (02) 9267 4868.

Assistance with arrangements for transport and accommodation for interstate teams is available. The Festival will run from 15 March - 6 April, with the Soccer Challenge scheduled for 28-31 March.

SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHART

CHILE NAMES SQUAD FOR BOLIVIA MATCH

Chile national coach Nelson Acosta has named the squad to face Bolivia on February 12, in La Paz, in the South American 1998 World Cup qualifying rounds.

The Chileans will go to the match against Bolivia without their star striker Marcelo Salas, who has a toe injury sustained in a training session with his current club, Argentine champion River Plate. Luis Musrri is also injured, Fernando Cornejo and Christian Mora are suspended. The squad is the following:

Goalkeepers: Tapia and Cossia

Defenders: Castaneda, Reyes, Fuentes, J Gonzales, Miranda, Poli and Vargas

Midfielders: Chavarria, Slas, Flores, Riveros, P. Gonzales, Perez, J Contreras, W Contreras, Castenada

Strikers: Rozental, Vergara, Zamorano, Goldberg.

RESULTS

ARGENTINA 3 VENEZUALA 0

ARGENTINA: Franco, Loeschbor, Serrizuela, Samuel, Placente, Markic, Riquelmo (Quintana 36), Druscher, Aimar (Cambiasso 66), Romeo, Peralta, (Rodriguez 52).

VENEZUALA: Toyo, Perez, Jiminez, Briceno, Duno, Becarra, Melo (Sequera 66), Garcia, Giraldo (Paez 72), Quilaguri (Casseres 69), Noriega.
Crowd: 11, 000
Referee: V. Maroya
Goals: Quintana (53), Aimar (6), Romeo (63)
Man of the Match: Bernardo Romeo (Arg)
Best Venezualan player: Daniel Noriega

BRAZIL 3 PARAGUAY 0

BRAZIL: Marcelo, Alcir, Jean, Cristiano, Athirson, Sidney, Odair, Fabiano, Adailton (89 Leo), Jorginho (52 Alvaro) Alex (82 Kleber).

PARAGUAY: Villar, Villaba, H. Florentin, Burgos, Florentin, Martinez, Tiozzo, Gonzales (Roman 46), Esquivel, Ramirez, Moringo (Nunez 63).
Referee: F. Paneso
Goals: Adaiton (32), Florentin (own goal 65) Alex (67)
Yellow cards: Cristiano, Tiozzi, Ramirez,
Red card: Cristiano

CHILE 2 URUGUAY 2

Crowd: 11, 000
CHILE: Riqieme, Contreras, Berrios, Olarra, Figueroa. Iribarren, Rojas, Vivar, Arrue, (74 Carrasco), Neira, Navia (74 Gonzalez).
Coach: Acosta.

URUGUAY: Munua, Diaz, Carreno, Rivas, Pellegrin, Coelho (55 Garcia) Perea, Callejas, Olivera, Zalayeta, Miglionico (83 Podesta).
Coach: Pua
Referee: Urtube (Bolivia)
Goals: Neira (6, 42pen), Miglionico (43 pen) Zalayeta (73)
Yellow cards: Irribarren, Vivar, Berrios, Diaz, Coelho, Rivas, Callejas

Table	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	P
ARGENTINA	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
BRAZIL	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
URUGUAY	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
CHILE	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
PARAGUAY	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
VENEZUALA	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

South American U/20 championships

The South American U/20 championship entered the second round, in La Serena, with victories to Argentina and Brazil and a draw between the host nation, Chile and Uruguay.

The match between the Chileans and the Uruguayans was considered by the experts as the best and most competitive game of the tournament, with an outstanding display of attacking football from both teams.

The overlapping of Chilean defender Vivar plus the mobility of strikers Neira and Navia was a constant threat for the usually very solid Uruguayan defence.

Meanwhile the world champions Argentina, had to work very hard to beat an inspired Venezualan outfit, who played an entertaining brand of soccer, creating several chances in front of the Argentine goal.

Nevertheless, the more experienced Argentines took at the end the three points sharing the lead with Brazil in the final round robin.

The Brazilians, guided by brilliant midfielder Adailton, one of the stars of the tournament, dominated the encounter against a Paraguayan side who had great difficulties to control the more skilful and talented opponents.

'Ortega'

ARGENTINA'S BUILD UP PREPARATION

The Argentinian national team coached by Daniel Passarella started its build up preparations for the match against Columbia on February 12 in Barranquilla with a 2-1 victory over Second division Deportivo Italiano. The goals were scored by Ortega and Patricio Camps. Argentina played without its overseas based players Chamot, Simeone and Crespo. Gustavo Zapata , who played the last three years in the J-League is the new addition to the squad.

In Brief...

☛ Uruguayan tactician Nelson Acosta, in charge of the Chilean national senior team, replaced Guillermo Yavar as coach of the national U/20 team.

Yavar was suspended for two matches by the organising committee after his sending off during the last match of the first qualifying round, which Chile lost 3-1, finishing the game with only 9 men.

☛ The decision to use referees from eliminated countries of the first round of qualifying, was roundly applauded by coaches, officials, players and the assorted local media.

☛ Uruguay finished first in Group B after defeating Argentina 1-0 in the last game in Coquimbo. Uruguayan defender Diaz scored in the 76th minute. Both teams already qualified and used seven reserves in each side. Uruguay finished with 10 points, followed by Argentina on 7, Paraguay 6, Columbia 5 and the battling Bolivians on 0.

☛ Brazil won Group A with the max points of 12, followed by Venezuala 7, Chile 6, Peru 3 and Ecuador 2.

☛ The highest scorers of the qualifying rounds were: Adailton and Aurellio from Brazil and Noriega from Venezuala, all with four goals

☛ Chile was the team in the first round that recieved the most red cards, 3 in total, followed by Argentina (2) and Paraguay (2)

PARTICK THISTLE

BY STUART JONES

Ground:	Firhill Park
Address:	80 Firhill Rd Glasgow G20 7BA
Railway:	Glasgow Queen Central/ Glasgow Central
Founded:	1876
Admitted to league:	1890
Ground Capacity:	20, 276
Seats:	8,700
Pitch size:	110 yd by 74 yd
Largest gate:	49, 838
Biggest win:	16-0 versus Royal Albert, Scottish Cup
Biggest loss:	0-10
Nickname:	The Jags
Colours:	Red and Yellow
Honours:	League, Division one (75/76) Division Two (1896/7,1899/1900), 1970/71)

History: Partick's first game was played at Kelvingrove. In 1881 the club moved to Jordonvale Park. Then they moved to Muir Park, and then Inchview Park, the former home of rivals Partick FC. From 1891 until 1908 the club called Meadowside Park home. It was right on the river and as at Shrewsbury a boat had to present to fish balls out of the river. The Clyde however was for bigger boats and in 1908 Henderson's shipyards was to be built so Partick had to vacate. The following season the club played on all Glasgow's league grounds for their home fixtures, and this constant disruption led to a dismal season with the club finishing last and gaining only 8 points. On 21 August 1909, the club was to inaguarate their new ground, Firhill, with a game against Queens Park. With officials and players inside and Marquees set up the news came through that the ground was unsuitable for the public, as ruled by the Chief Inspector of the Office of Public Works. So the game was called off two hours before the kick off - a disastrous start. It took a further month of work for the ground to be declared up to scratch. In the 1920s the ground was improved so much so that in the 1928 it hosted an international match against Ireland, attended by 54, 728, the most the ground itself has held for a football game.
A few years later greyhound racing was introduced at the ground. Three League Cup Final appearances in the 1950s helped pay for a new enclosure and floodlights. They debuted under lights at the ground against Spurs in a friendly in November 1955. In 1986 Clyde asked if they could ground share for a season or so, ans so things had swung full circle as Partick had had to use use Clyde's ground way back at the beginning of the century. Partick were relegated from the Premier league recently and are now fighting to move back into the top flight in Bonny Scotland.

Wolverhampton: *Seen in an 1895 photograph when they added Wanderers to their name.*

SOUTHERN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Southampton	28	18	5	5	58	26	41
Bristol City	28	17	5	6	54	27	39
Portsmouth	28	17	4	7	45	32	38
Millwall Athletic	28	17	2	9	55	32	36
Tottenham Hotspur	28	16	4	8	55	33	36
West Ham Utd	28	14	5	9	40	28	33
Bristol Rovers	28	14	4	10	46	35	32
Queens Park Rangers	28	11	4	13	43	48	26
Reading	28	8	8	12	24	25	24
Luton Town	28	11	2	15	45	49	24
Kettering	28	7	9	12	33	46	23
New Brompton	28	7	5	16	34	51	19
Gravesend Utd	28	6	7	15	32	85	19
Watford	28	6	4	18	24	52	16
Swindon	28	3	8	17	19	47	14

Weird and Wonderful

BY STUART JONES

With the help of Sam Raybould's 16 goals it was Liverpool who took out the championship this season. Second and third were Sunderland and Notts County. Mighty Preston NE were relegated from the top flight as were WBA. Previous champions Villa were just two places and five points above relegation.
In the second division Blackpool and Stockport County replaced Loughborough Town and Luton Town. Grimsby were champions and also to be promoted were second placed Small Heath, who became better known as Birmingham City.
Burnley who had dropped out of the top flight the season previous missed out on promotion by a place. Burton Swifts came bottom and effected amalgamation the following season.
It was Southern League team Tottenham Hostspur who made all the news in the FA Cup this season. They had defeated Preston, Bury, Reading, and WBA to meet Sheffield United (who completed Villa's dismal season by defeating them in the semi final) in the FA Cup Final.
The final had to be replayed at Burnden Park, Bolton after the first game had ended 2-2 at the Crystal Palace where the estimation of the crowd was, over 114, 000.
But the official attendance in the replay was only 20, 470. Cameron, Smith and Brown scored as Spurs won 3-1.
In the Southern League it was Southampton who put the previous season's disappointment behind them and took out the title. Newly promoted Watford and Swindon were forced into play offs against Brentford (champions of the second division) and Grays United.
The test matches ended in 0-0 draws and after elections it was decided only Grays would not play in the top flight the following year.
At the bottom of the second division all that stopped Wycombe and Southall finishing equal last was Wycombe scored 23 goals compared to Southall's 22- apart from that their records were identical.
In Scotland, Rangers retained their title with 35 points. Celtic were second on 29 and Hibernian finished third on 25 points.
In the cup Hearts defeated Celtic 4-3 the same scoreline Celtic had won finals the previous season.

LEAGUE TABLES

DIVISION 1

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	34	12	2	3	36	13	7	5	5	23	22	45
Sunderland	34	12	3	2	43	11	3	10	4	14	15	43
Notts Co	34	13	2	2	39	18	5	2	10	15	28	40
Nottingham Forest	34	10	4	3	32	14	6	1	8	21	22	39
Bury	34	11	3	3	31	10	5	4	7	22	27	39
Newcastle U	34	10	5	2	27	13	4	5	8	15	24	38
Everton	34	10	4	3	37	17	6	1	10	18	25	37
Sheffied W	34	13	2	2	38	16	0	8	9	14	26	36
Blackburn R	34	9	4	4	24	18	3	5	9	16	29	33
Bolton W	34	10	5	2	21	12	3	2	12	18	43	33
Manchester C	34	12	3	2	32	16	1	3	13	16	42	32
Derby C	34	10	4	3	43	18	2	3	12	12	24	31
Wolves	34	6	10	1	21	15	3	3	11	18	40	31
Sheffield U	34	8	4	5	22	23	4	3	10	13	28	31
Aston Villa	34	8	5	4	32	18	2	5	10	13	33	30
Stoke	34	8	3	6	23	15	3	1	12	23	42	27
Preston NE	34	6	4	7	29	30	3	3	11	20	45	25
WBA	34	4	4	9	21	27	3	4	10	14	35	22

DIVISION 2

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grimsby T	34	15	3	0	46	11	6	6	5	14	22	49
Small Heath	34	14	2	1	41	8	5	8	4	16	16	48
Burnley	34	15	2	0	39	6	5	2	10	14	23	44
New Brighton	34	12	5	0	34	8	5	3	9	23	30	42
Glossop	34	11	2	4	34	9	4	6	7	16	24	38
Middlesborough	34	11	4	2	38	13	4	3	10	12	27	37
W Arsenal	34	13	3	1	30	11	2	3	12	9	24	36
Lincoln C	34	12	3	2	39	11	1	4	12	4	28	33
Burslem PV	34	8	6	3	28	14	3	5	9	17	33	33
Newton Heath	34	11	3	3	31	9	3	1	13	11	29	32
Leicester F	34	9	5	3	30	15	2	5	10	9	22	32
Blackpool	34	7	6	4	20	11	5	1	11	13	47	31
GainsboroT	34	8	4	5	36	18	2	6	9	49	42	30
Chesterfield	34	6	5	6	25	22	3	5	9	21	36	28
Barnsley	34	9	3	5	34	23	2	2	13	13	37	27
Walsall	34	7	7	3	29	23	0	6	11	11	33	27
Stockport Co	34	9	2	6	25	21	2	1	14	13	47	25
Burton S	34	7	3	7	16	21	1	1	15	18	45	20

U.K. SOCCER
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Around the Globe

Hewson joins Sydney United

THE President of Sydney United (Pumas) Soccer Club, Mr Ivan Simic, on Friday announced the appointment of Mr John Hewson as Chairman of the Board of the club.

Mr Simic commented on the appointment by saying Sydney United was honoured to have a person of Mr Hewson's calibre on its governing board. "John Hewson will bring to the club considerable business and strategic skills. He is someone who has a genuine interest in the development of the game in this country and we are absolutely delighted that Sydney United will be the beneficiary of his advice and guidance."

In accepting the appointment, Mr Hewson said he was looking forward to the challenge of making Sydney United the premier Soccer club in Australia and ultimately the Asia Pacific region. "I am impressed with the very visionary agenda that the club is presently developing in response to a changing Soccer marketplace. My role will be very much of providing some strategic advice where required and to generally support the Board in its effort to elevate the club to a new professional level."

Mr Simic confirmed the club was working on a strategic plan which would provide the blueprint for the future of Sydney United, "The Board is excited about the opportunities which exist for the club and we are naturally confident that John Hewson's involvement will assist us in finally realising potential which the Pumas have so often promised."

Soccer Australia Chairman David Hill said Soccer Australian welcomed the appointment.

"The appointment by Sydney United of John Hewson is a terrific initiative. Soccer will be richer for having a person of John's calibre involved at senior level. By John Hewson's appointment, the club is proving to be professional and progressive.

NZ TEAM IN ERICSSON CUP?

Soccer New Zealand met with its national league clubs last Thursday to determine whether they support moves to introduce a team into the Australian league.

Kiwi officials met with Australian chiefs at the weekend to determine what it will take to enter a team in the Ericsson Cup and will brief their 10 clubs.

Soccer New Zealand deputy chairman REX DAWKINS says he has no doubt a New Zealand team, based in Auckland, would be more than competitive in the Australian league.

He says if everything's given the green light, a New Zealand team could participate in the competition next season.

This move could if approved by SA and FIFA, mean a 16 team competition in the Ericsson Cup for the 1997/98 season.

Carlton are already assured of entry and providing all existing clubs remain in the league then 16 it will be.

The approval of FIFA is necessary as the code's ruling body frowns on clubs playing in competitions outside their borders.

There are moves to have Cardiff City, Swansea and Wrexham leave the English Football League and play in the competition run in Wales.

However, if New Zealand is to progress at international level their players need tougher games than those provided by their domestic league.

JUVENTUS SUFFERS SETBACK

Juventus's march towards the Italian Serie A title hit a pothole on Sunday when lowly Cagliari held them 0-0 and 10-man Sampdoria came back to beat AC Milan 3-2 to stay two points adrift of the European Cup holders.

The world club champions created few chances and were lucky to come away with a point after Montero was sent packing for a foul tackle on striker Roberto Muzzi and Cagliari came close on several occasions.

"We played nearly an hour with 10 men and never gave up," said Juve coach Marcello Lippi. "I'm satisfied with they way all my men played."

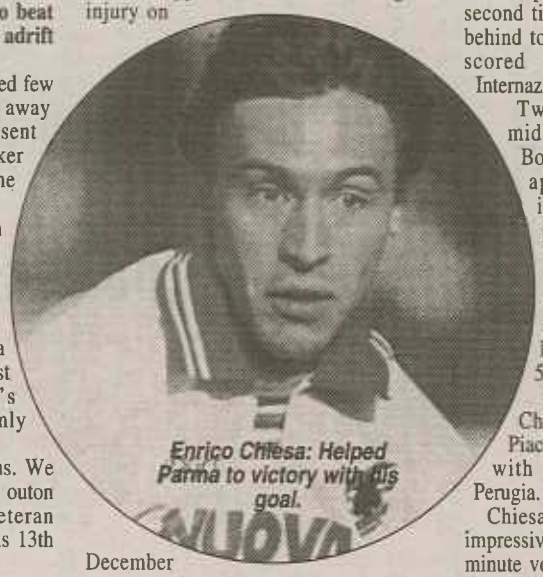
Juventus had appeared to lack a serious challenger in its title quest before Sunday, but Sampdoria's dramatic recovery in Milan firmly established it as a contender.

"Everything's going well for us. We came back from two goals jumped outon top in the first minute when veteran captain Roberto Mancini scored his 13th goal of the season.

The 32-year-old is now joint top scorer with Atalanta's Filippo Inzaghi and Argentine Abel Balbo, who scored two well-taken goals in Roma's 2-0 home win over Vicenza.

But things appeared to take a turn for the worse in the 22nd minute when goalkeeper Fabrizio Ferron was sent off for fouling Milan's George Weah..

The 1995 World Player of the Year, in his first appearance since suffering an injury on



Enrico Chiesa: Helped Parma to victory with his goal.

December 22, did not hesitate in finding his old form , equalising in the 37th minute and making it 2-1 in the 57th.

Just when victory seemed certain, Yugoslavian defender Sinisa Mihajlovic blasted home a free-kick to equalise in the 74th minute and, five minutes later, winger Marco Carparelli added the shock winner.

It was Milan's eighth defeat this season, putting it in 12th place, and the second time Sampdoria has come from behind to win at the San Siro. Mancini scored in injury time to beat Internazionale 4-3 earlier this season.

Two brilliant free-kicks by midfielder Cristiano Scapolo led Bologna's 6-1 rout of Verona, who appear likely to make an immediate return to Serie B despite defeating Milan 3-1 last week.

Sweden's Kennet Andersson and Russia's Igor Shalimov also added goals as Bologna coach Renzo Ulivieri celebrated his 57th birthday.

Parma bounced back as Enrico Chiesa scored in a 1-0 win over Piacenza that put it level on points with Internazioanle, held 0-0 at Perugia.

Chiesa's goal was perhaps the most impressive of the day, an acrobatic 57th minute volley from a Dino Baggio cross that left goalkeeper Massimo Taibi helpless.

Dino Zoff, who replaced Czech Zdenek Zeman as Lazio's coach last week, celebrated a victorious debut in his native Friuli as striker Giuseppe Signori scored twice to lead the Rome club to a 3-2 win at Udinese.

WA Curtain raiser

The curtain-raiser to the WA soccer season, the annual night-series kicked-off at Macedonia Park last Friday. The Online/Casico Night Series, consisting of the 14 First Division clubs spilt into three groups, will play Friday and Sunday evening, and Wednesdays when Perth Glory are at home.

Stirling Macedonia, under new coach Tom Kilkelly, will be out to make it a fourth consecutive Night title. Their only threat in Group B should come from last year's Premier league bridesmaids Bayswater City Panthers. Division One champions Joondalup City, with former Glasgow Rangers, Seville (Spain) and Burnley flank runner Kevin 'Ted' McMinn, will be among the strongest threats, along with Fremantle City, Premier Division champions Inglewood Falcons and Spearwood Dalmatinac.

GROUPS

GROUP A:
Swan IC
Western Knights:
Floreat Athena
Joondalup City
Sorrento

GROUP B:
Dianella White Eagles
Bayswater City Panthers
Olympic Kingsway
Morley Windmills
Stirling Macedonia

GROUP C:
Fremantle City
Spearwood Dalmatinac
Inglewood Falcons
Perth

FIXTURES

Fri 7 Feb
Western Knights versus Sorrento
Inglewood versus Perth
Wed 12 Feb
Fremantle versus Spearwood
Bayswater versus Stirling
Fri. 14 Feb
Dianella versus Olympic
Swan IC versus Sorrento
Wed 19 Feb
Western Knights versus Joondalup
Stirling versus Morley
Fri 21 Feb
Spearwood versus Perth
Fremantle versus Inglewood
Sun 23 Feb
Swan IC versus Floreat
Fri 28 Feb
Dianella versus Stirling
Morley versus Bayswater
Wed 5 March
Western Knights versus Floreat
Fremantle versus Perth
Fri 7 Mar
Olympic versus Stirling
Diannella versus Sorrento
Sun 9 Mar
Swan IC versus Joondalup
Spearwood versus Inglewood
Fri 14 March
Group A/B R/up, Winner v Group C Winner
Sun 23 Mar
GRAND FINAL

ACTSF ANNOUNCES CUP SPONSORSHIP

The Insurance Exchange of Australian has become the major sponsor of the ACT Soccer Federation's annual pre-season competition, the Federation Cup.

This year's competition, to be known as the IEA Federation Cup, will be contested between sixteen teams on a knockout basis. Premier League clubs will have automatic entry, while the other six places will be filled by teams from other clubs on a first come, first served basis.

The IEA Federation Cup for 1997 will kick off on March 2, with rounds each week leading up to the Final on March 23.

ACT Soccer Federation President, Steve Doszpot, said "As a result of the IEA sponsorship\, prizemoney has increased to a total of $2,500. This will be shared among the four teams contesting the semi-finals, with the lion's share going to the eventual winner.

"The ACTSF is proud to be associated with IEA in the 1997 Federation Cup, and looks forward to a continuing relationship with IEA."

Traditionally, the winner of the Federation Cup has been invited to play in the NSWSF's Waratah Cup. Chairman of the ACTSF Senior League, Joe Fusca, wished all the entrants good luck in this year's competition, adding that "the Federation Cup has always been an important part of the ACTSF calendar, and this sponsorship from IEA will ensure that it remains a prestigious pre-season event."

UK STORIES

United maintain lead

A late goal by French striker Eric Cantona lifted Manchester United to a 2-1 victory over lowly Southampton on Saturday as the Reds maintained a one-point lead atop the Premier League.

Cantona scored with a right-footed volley off a cross from Ryan Giggs in the 80th minute as Manchester United avenged October's humiliating 6-3 loss to the Saints and extended their unbeaten run to 13 games.

Norway's Egil Ostenstad had put Southampton up 1-0 in the 11th minute, but Gary Pallister levelled for United eight minutes later.

The victory at Old Trafford put the defending champions with 50 points, one ahead of Liverpool and three in front of Arsenal.

Liverpool moved past Arsenal into second place with a 1-0 victory at Derby, who played most of the second half with 10 men after Darryl Powell was sent off, for serious foul play.

Stan Collymore scored the winner in the 75th minute as Liverpool bounced back from their stunning 4-2 FA Cup defeat against Chelsea last weekend.

Arsenal dropped to third place with 47 points after settling for a 0-0 draw at Leeds.

Leeds thought they had won the game when Ian Rush put the ball in the net in stoppage time, but the goal was disallowed for offside.

Chelsea moved into fifth place with 41 points points by gaining a 2-1 win at London rivals Tottenham. An own goal by Sol Campbell after just 50 seconds gave Chelsea the lead, and Italy's Roberto Di

Matteo got the second in the 53rd minute.

Wimbledon dropped into sixth place after a 1-1 draw with bottom club Middlesbrough. After an own goal by Neil Cox in the first half, 'Boro equalised through Robbie Mustoe in the 75th minute and squandered a chance to go ahead when Brazilian Emerson missed a penalty.

Nick Barmby: Helped Everton back onto victory path.

Aston Villa got their first league win in seven matches as Savo Milosevic's first-half goal provided a 1-0 home victory against Sunderland.

West Ham's crisis deepened further with a 2-1 defeat at Blackburn, pushing the Hammers further into the relegation zone. Kevin Gallacher and Chris Sutton scored for Rovers.

Everton broke their six-game losing streak with a 2-0 win over Nottingham Forest with goals by Duncan Ferguson and Nicky Barmby. And in the other Premier League game, Sheffield Wednesday and Coventry drew 0-0.

In Division One, Bolton beat Birmingham City 2-1 to extend their lead at the top to 12 points. Sheffield United fell 2-1 to Swindon and slumped to fourth place as Wolves, 2-0 winners over Stoke, jumped to second.

Defence for Bosnich

Aston Villa goalkeeping coach Paul Barron has leapt to the defence of their under-fire keeper Mark Bosnich who is having a disappointing season in the English Premier League.

Bosnich has struggled to reproduce his best form since recovering from a double knee setback and has come in for criticism from a section of Villa supporters.

It prompted the 25-year-old custodian to launch an attack on a radio program on the Villa fans which earned him a rebuke from manager Brian Little.

Bosnich, Australia's leading keeper, was given a cool reception by fans at the recent FA Cup clash with Derby and one splendid save was greeted with almost total non-applause by thousands of Villa supporters congregated behind his goal.

But Barron, the former Crystal Palace and West Bromwich Albion keeper, believes Bosnich is still "well in credit" in terms of match-winning performances for Villa outweighing the number of blunders he has made.

Barron said: "I accept that Mark does need to produce a consistently high level of performance and that this season he has made a few mistakes.

"If he doesn't then Mark knows there is another keeper behind him in Michael Oakes who, believe you me, is not too far away.

"But what people seem to forget are the problems he has had this season. He was working hard in pre-season and got injured and then he came back and was injured again.

"He also came back into the side at an extremely difficult period of the season when we have been playing a lot of high-profile games in quick succession. It takes a little bit of time to get back into things.

Bosnich has had the kind of season he would rather forget after helping Villa win the Coca-Cola Cup last season with a series of sparkling displays.

Apart from his injury setbacks he was found guilty of misconduct by the Football Association over his Hitler-style salute towards Tottenham fans at White Hart Lane in October.

Right 13 times

A gambler won almost $630,000 with a $A20.stake by correctly predicting the results of 13 British matches, a bookmaker said last week.

The mystery punter could be forgiven for sending a case of champagne to Danish striker Soren Andersen, who scored in the last minute of the final game to round off an astonishing feat of forecasting.

A spokesman for bookmaker Ladbrokes, which took the bet, said it was the largest number of correct results he could recall anyone predicting.

"He must have chewed his nails to the knuckles but so did we, and we honestly wished him well," said Ian Wassell.

"Believe it or not bookmakers share the excitement of these once-in-a-blue-moon bets. He studied the form and it paid off."

McCann restless with Celtic

The chairman of Celtic revealed last week that the Scottish soccer giants have been pondering an outrageous move to the English Premiership.

But his dramatic proposal was immediately dismissed as a "non-starter" by representatives of the Premiership.

Celtic chief Fergus McCann said the famous club had a responsiblity to its supporters and shareholders to look beyond Scotland in considering every possible way of improving the club.

McCann, a fierce critic of the standards of Scotish league football, revealed in a statement that the prospect of a sensational move to England had been discussed.

But he admitted that the shock move south of the border, whichwould be made possible by a suggested buy-out of cash-strapped Wimbledon, had not been taken any further.

McCann added: "The current football environment doesn't seem to suit anyone and change is definitely required. Celtic would like to play in a strong Scottish League and efforts should be made to try and achieve this.

"It is disappointing that some people think changing the number of teams in the divisions is an answer to all of Scottish football's problems. As I have said before, we must look to what the supporter wants and start from there.

"Midweek European football is certainly on the way and that is something Celtic very much wants to be part of."

The Premier League dismissed the feasability of a possible Celtic move South. Spokesman Mike Lee said: "The rules governing associations between clubs apply to all the leagues represented on the International Football League Board, which includes Scotland.

"The suggestion of a link with a Premier League club is quite simply a contravention of the rulebook."

Kanchelskis gone to Italy

Everton have agreed a $A17 million fee with Serie-A club Fiorentina for Russian winger Andrei Kanchelskis who has failed to settle at Everton after his controversial move from Premier League rivals Manchester United in 1995.

Manager Joe Royle made the announcement after Everton's 4-1 defeat to Newcastle — their seventh straight loss.

Fiorentina coach Claudio Ranieri was impressed with the winger after watching recent tapes of him in action.

The Italians hope that, playing alongside Argentine ace Gabriel Batistuta, Kanchelskis would give them a chance of finishing second in the Serie A this season and earning a place in the expanded Champions League.

ENGLAND
Leading Scorers
Premier League

17	Ian Wright (Arsenal)
	Alan Shearer (Newcastle)
12	Robbie Fowler (Liverpool)
	Dwight York (Aston Villa),
	Les Ferdinand (Newcastle)
11	Ole Gunnar Solskjaer (Man.United)
10	Fabrizio Ravanelli (Middlesbrough)
	Matthew Le Tissier (Southampton)
	Chris Sutton (Blackburn)
9	Efan Ekoku (Wimbledon)

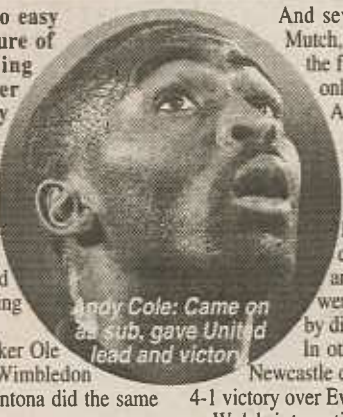
SCOTLAND
Premier Division

17	Jorge Cadete (Celtic)
14	Pierre Van Hooydonk (Celtic)
13	Paul Gascoigne (Rangers)
11	Billy Dodds (Aberdeen)
	John Robertson (Hearts)
10	Gerry Britton (Dunfermline)
	Darren Jackson (Hibernian)
9	Ally McCoist (Rangers)
	Dean Windass (Aberdeen)

United power to top in midweek

Andy Cole missed two easy chances but made sure of another as defending champions Manchester United scored a 2-1 victory over Wimbledon on Wednesday to go top of the English Premier League

Entering the game as substitute, Cole saw Wimbledon go ahead through Chris Perry following a corner in the 61st minute.



Andy Cole: Came on as sub, gave United lead and victory

United's Norwegian striker Ole Gunnar Solskjaer hit the Wimbledon crossbar twice and Eric Cantona did the same once.

Cole then shot wide from close range with only the goalkeeper to

beat before Ryan Giggs equalised with a header in the 76th minute.

Just seven minutes remained when Cole finally got it right. The ball dropped to him three metres out and he couldn't miss.

Arsenal, with Ian Wright's 24th goal of the season were the winners at Upton Park after an own goal by Arsenal defender Matthew Rhodes had cancelled out Ray Parlour's early strike.

In the League Cup, Andy Mutch scored the winner only seconds after entering the game as a substitute as second division Stockport upset Premier League Southampton 2-1 to reach the semifinal of a major cup competition for the first time in their 114-year history.

County won the quarter final replay at the Dell to earn a last four game over two legs with star-studded Middlesbrough.

After Saints' England star Matt Le Tissier had collected a left wing cross on his chest to fire his team ahead in the eighth minute, County hit back to turn the game around.

In the 62nd minute, Brett Angell collected a loose back to break away to shoot under the body of Saints goalkeeper Dave Beasant.

And seven minutes from the end Mutch, seconds after running onto the field, tapped the ball in from only one metre out after Alun Armstrong had broken clear,

It was another giant-killing act for Stockport, who had knocked Premier League West Ham and Blackburn out of the competition. And it was another upset for Saints, who were ousted from the F.A. Cup by division one Reading.

In other Premier League games, Newcastle came from behind to score a 4-1 victory over Everton.

Welsh international Neville Southall was dropped from the Everton team for the first time since 1982 as manager Joe Royle aimed to end a run of five league losses in a row. The 38-year-old 'keeper had played in a club record 726 times. It didn't work for the Toffeemen.

Spurs won 2-1 at home to Blackburn, who had not conceded a goal in six games. Norwegian striker Steffen Iversen and Andy Sinton netted for Tottenham and Colin Hendry replied for Rovers.

Darren Huckerby, born in Nottingham and a fan of neighbor Notts County, scored Coventry's winner in a 1-0 victory at Nottingham Forest with a looping header from a flicked-on corner.

While Leeds and Derby tied 0-0 at Elland Road, Leicester and Sunderland fought out a 1-1 draw at Filbert Street.

Bolton moved 11 points clear of their rivals in division one by winning 2-1 at Stoke despite the expulsion of 20-goal striker Nathan Blake.

Jamie Pollock and John McGinlay fired Wanderers ahead at the Victoria Ground before Mike Macari, son of manager Lou, replied for City.

Victorious Australia squad with Optus World Series Cup at SFS Jan 25, 1997

BACK ROW L-R: Robbie Hooker, Luke Casserly, Dominic Longo, Jason Petkovic, Craig Foster, Alistair Edwards, Jason Polak, Matt Bingley, Mark Babic, Milan Ivanovic, Robbie Enes. FRONT L-R: Warren Spink, Kris Trajanovski, Paul Trimbole, Ernie Tapie, Zelkjo Kalac, David Zdrilic, Alex Tobin.